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Henry Hookinham

## HENRY J. COOKINHAM

HENRY J. COOKINHAM, son of John D. and Diantha L. Cookinham, was born at Prospect, Oneida county, New York, October 1, 1843; was educated in the Prospect Academy and Whitestown Seminary; was a student in the law department of Hamilton College, also in the law office of United States Senator Roscoe Conkling, at Utica, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. He immediately formed a partnership with Arthur M. Beardsley for the practice of his profession in Utica. In 1874 Francis M. Burdick, now dean of the law school of Columbia College, was admitted to the partnership. This partnership was dissolved by the retirement of Mr. Cookinham in 1880, when he formed a partnership with James S. Sherman and John G. Gibson. Later Mr. Gibson retired from the firm and Richard R. Martin was admitted as a partner. Later the firm became Cookinham, Sherman & Cookinham, the junior partner being Mr. Cookinham's eldest son. In 1908 Mr. Sherman was nominated and elected vice-president of the United States, and gave up his law practice. The firm then became Cookinham & Cookinham, consisting of the father and two sons, Henry J., Jr., and Frederick H., which firm has continued to the present time.

In 1873 Mr. Cookinham was elected special surrogate of Oneida county, and in 1880 was a member of the Assembly of the State of New York, and served on important committees. In 1884 he was the candidate of the Republican party for representative in Congress, but was defeated, owing to a division in that party caused by the quarrel between James G. Blaine, then Republican candidate for the presidency, and Roscoe Conkling, of Utica, United States senator from New York who opposed Mr. Blaine's nomination and election. In 1894 Mr. Cookinham was a delegate to the New York State Constitutional Convention, and was a member of the committees of judiciary, suffrage, and privileges and elections. At the adjournment of the convention he was appointed chairman of a special committee to prepare an address to the people of the state, explanatory of the new constitution. He was a member of the board of commissioners for the erection of a new court house in the city of Utica for Oneida county, and for several years served as its chairman. He is a member of the State Bar Association, the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the Bar Association of Oneida County, the Utica Law Library Association, and for several years was its president, the Oneida

Historical Society, the Sons of the Revolution, the American Scenic and Historical Preservation Society, and was for many years a director of the Young Men's Christian Association, and is a member of several other clubs and organizations. He was for many years a director and counsel for the United Glass Company, and is at present a director of the Utica Industrial Company, Troy Public Works Company and New Hartford Canning Company, Limited. He has been engaged in many important suits in the United States courts, and was retained to argue, in the Supreme Court of the United States, the case of the United States against Rothchilds, a test case involving duties upon leaf tobacco, and was counsel for the importers in the cases in the United States courts involving the question of countervailing duty on wood pulp imported from the Dominion of Canada. He is author of a memorial volume of President James A. Garfield, "Recollections of the Oneida County Bar" and "History of the Judiciary of Oneida County."

In September, 1872, he married Mary Louise, daughter of General Richard U. Sherman, and sister of James S. Sherman, vice-president of the United States. They have six children, one daughter and five sons.

# PREFACE

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The historian, who does not endeavor to impress his own opinions upon his readers, but records events as they actually occurred and leaves others to draw their own conclusions, writes the truest history. As history is, after all, little more than the record of men's deeds, the writer who admires his subject or who is a partisan in any cause, is liable to give unmerited praise to those whom he esteems, and he who holds adverse opinions censures too frequently when praise is merited. Would it not be wiser for all who undertake to write history to endeavor to record only what men have said and done as the best means of transmitting to posterity a correct knowledge of past events? It has not been the intention of the writer of this work to embellish with figures of speech or flowery language, but to present, as far as possible a correct statement of the natural wealth and advantages of the county, and to record what the inhabitants of the county have done in all fields of thought and action.

Few localities in the entire country have furnished more exciting history than Oneida county. Situated in the very heart of the great Empire State, having for its early settlers a people intelligent, industrious and of high moral character, it is not surprising that it furnished men who, by their capacity and energy, did their full share to make New York the Empire State of the Union. It is not extravagant to say that the sons of Oneida were foremost among the statesmen, lawyers, doctors, educators and merchants who worked out the problems that have given to the state its more than nine million inhabitants and more than one-sixth of the wealth of the nation.

It is not expected that this work will escape severe criticism, but, when all the critics have passed judgment upon it, the writer wishes to assure them that he can point out many other imperfections which have been apparently unobserved. It is true that much more could have been written on the subjects embraced in the work, and many more subjects might have been written upon, but the line was drawn according to the writer's best judgment, and, so far as this book is concerned, from that judgment there is no appeal.

In explanation of the plan adopted the writer wishes to say that the endeavor has been to treat quite fully the subjects which other writers have

## PREFACE

passed lightly over, and to treat sparingly those which they have written upon elaborately. Most sincerely does the author acknowledge his obligations to many friends who have rendered him valuable aid in the enterprise. Among these are Hon. Andrew S. Draper, commissioner of education of the state of New York; Hon. Rudolf Ruedemann, state geologist; Dr. Tarlton H. Bean, state fish culturist; Hon. Ellis H. Roberts, Rev. Dana W. Bigelow, D. D., Lieutenant William G. Mayer, Rev. William Harden Squires, Ph.D., of Hamilton College, Hon. Garry A. Willard, Mr. Rudolphus C. Briggs, A. M., Mr. Egbert Bagg, Dr. T. Wood Clarke, Warren C. Rowley, Miss Caroline M. Underhill, librarian of the Utica library, Miss M. Elizabeth Beach, Miss Alice B. Jones and Miss Eugenie Stevens.



# History of Oneida County

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## CHAPTER I

### THE INDIANS—IROQUOIS—ONEIDAS

The Empire State! New York! The most extraordinary civil division of the earth's surface! Can there be any doubt about the truthfulness of this statement? If so, why is it that we have grown so great?

Consisting of little more than 47,000 squares miles of territory, New York has one-tenth of the population and more than one-sixth of the wealth of the entire nation, and the United States is the richest nation in the world.

It does not seem that there is any accounting for this extraordinary development in New York except upon the theory that the natural advantages of the state are superior to those of any other country, and that it is inhabited by an unusually able and energetic people.

At the mouth of the Hudson river is one of the finest harbors in the world. On its shores has grown up the second, and soon to be not only the first city in the world, but the greatest city that has ever existed upon the face of the earth. Northward and along the picturesque Hudson thrive many cities and villages, and the scenery is unsurpassed by any of its kind. Near the western shore are the Catskill mountains, and, although they are not so magnificent as many others, yet they are as picturesque as any mountains in the entire country. Farther northward are Saratoga Springs, which send forth their healing waters for many ills of the human family, and close by lies the peerless Lake George, by many called the most beautiful sheet of water on earth. Little farther northward lies Lake Champlain, into which could be poured the waters of all the Scottish and English lakes without raising its surface an inch. Westward lie the Adirondack mountains with their many lakes and mountain peaks, and consisting of territory nearly equal to all of Switzerland. While northward on its way to the sea the magnificent St. Lawrence flows through its more than sixteen hundred islands. Stretching along the central part of the state are the valleys of the Mohawk and Genesee, teeming with the products of their

fertile soil. The interior is adorned by such lakes as Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Skaneateles, Seneca, Chautauqua and others, any of which would be world famed if they were in any European country. On the northwest and westerly confines lie two of the Great Lakes, and between them is the natural wonder of earth, "Niagara."

In the very heart of this most remarkable commonwealth lies Oneida county, one of the choicest gems of the state. It is to this subject that this volume is devoted.

Whether or not there existed at some time in the past a prehistoric race in the territory now called the state of New York it is not the purpose here to discuss, nor is it intended to give a complete history of the savage tribes which occupied this part of the country before the white man made his appearance upon the scene of action in central New York. It is proposed, however, to give a general history of the Confederation and of the tribes of aborigines more particularly identified with the territory from which Oneida county was carved and for one of which tribes it was named.

Prior to the time that the white man made his way to this region it was the land of the Iroquois,—“People of the Long House” or “People of Many Fires,” by them called Ho-di-no-sau-nee. This was a remarkable race of savages, far superior in many respects to any other of the American Indian.

The term “Iroquois” was first used to designate the confederated five and afterwards six nations known as the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, Senecas, and Tuscaroras. The Indian names of these nations were:

Mohawks—Gä-ne-ä'-ga-o-no.

Oneidas—O-na'-yote-kä-o-no.

Onondagas—O-nun'-da-ga-o-no.

Cayugas—Gwe-u-gweh-o-no.

Senecas—Nun-dä'-wä-o-no.

Tuscaroras—Dus-ga'-o-weh-o-no.

By the French they were called “Iroquois,” by the English “The Confederation,” by the Dutch “Maquas,” and by themselves “Mungoes,” all meaning the “United People.”

Each nation was divided into tribes named as follows: Wolf, Bear, Beaver, Turtle, Deer, Snipe, Heron, Hawk.

Bloomfield, in his work entitled “The Oneidas,” states that this nation had only three tribes, the Wolf, Bear and Turtle.

Reference is sometimes made to the nations composing the league as “tribes.” This is not correct. The term “tribe” has reference to the subdivision of the nation, somewhat as the term “county” designates a subdivision of a state.

The date of the formation of the Iroquois confederacy is unknown. Some place it as early as 1459; others fix a much later period. Lossing gives 1539 as the year when it was formed. There is no doubt that it had existed many years before white men came among them. Statistics attainable do not sustain the general impression as to the numbers included within the League. It is stated by Morgan that the confederation consisted of the greatest numbers

about the year 1650. Bloomfield says that it reached its culminating point about 1700; but other writers with Morgan place it earlier, by, at least, half a century.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary war it was estimated that, all told, they numbered between 9,000 and 12,000; that 1,580 warriors took sides with the British, and 230, mostly Oneidas, joined the colonists. Governor Tryon in 1774 estimated their numbers to be 10,000, with 2,000 warriors. Dillon, a captain in the United States army, in 1786 estimated that 150 Oneidas joined the British. He also says that of all the Indian tribes in the country, 12,690 warriors were the allies of the king.

The country occupied by the different nations of the league was as follows: On the east were the Mohawks, next the Oneidas, then, in order, the Onondagas, Senecas and Cayugas. After the admission of the Tuscaroras into the confederation, that nation was given territory to the southward of the Oneidas and Onondagas. The Council House of the confederation was at Onondaga, and the general assembly occurred annually.

In his book entitled "The League of the Iroquois," Morgan says that "by the year 1700 the Iroquois had subdued and held in nominal subjection all the principal Indian nations occupying the territory which is now embraced in the states of New York, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, the northern and western part of Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, northern Tennessee, part of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, a portion of the New England states, and part of Upper Canada."

Halsey says that it was at about this time that the Confederation was at the height of its power. From that time until the English-French war began no great changes occurred among the people of the Long House.

The Iroquois were loyal to the English, and they were an important factor in the struggle between England and France for supremacy in the New World. England still owes to them a debt of gratitude that it can never pay. Not until the war of the Revolution was the friendship between the English and the Six Nations broken, and, even then, all, save the Oneidas and a part of the Tuscaroras, remained the allies of the British crown. The Confederates had lost none of their glory until the introduction among them of fire arms and intoxicating liquors.

When the colonies declared their independence, the question of joining the Americans or remaining loyal to the Crown came before the General Council. The Oneidas, supported in part by the Tuscaroras, favored neutrality, and as a unanimous vote was required to decide such questions, no action was taken that committed the entire confederation one way or the other, but it was determined to allow each nation to act its own pleasure. The result was that all but the Oneidas and part of the Tuscaroras cast their lot with England.

Many conferences were held in regard to the political situation between the representatives of the Six Nations and commissioners authorized by Congress to act on behalf of the colonies. A conference was held at German Flats, August 15, and another at Albany, August 23, 1775, but nothing definite was accomplished. In 1776, Governor Tryon wrote that all the Indians of the Six Nations were favorable to the king, but in this he was sadly in error. It is true, however, that, in 1780, a number of Oneidas and Tuscaroras went over



to the British. The decision made by the Oneidas at the beginning of the controversy between the colonies and the mother country cost that nation dearly, for in 1779 or 1780, their village and castle were entirely destroyed by the British troops and unfriendly Indians. At this time the Oneidas were driven down the Mohawk valley and remained near Schenectady, and were assisted by the United States government until the end of the war of the Revolution.

Perhaps centuries before the government of the United States was formed by white men, these savages had formed a national government which challenges our admiration, and has received high tribute by such writers as Lewis, Morgan, Halsey, Bloomfield, Beauchamp, and many others, and has attracted the attention of the foremost statesmen.

The Honorable Elihu Root, in his address at the Tercentennial Celebration of the discovery of Lake Champlain, July 7, 1909, referring to this extraordinary confederation, said:

"A century or more before the white settlement, five Indian nations of the same stock and language under the leadership of extraordinary political genius had formed a Confederacy for the preservation of internal peace and for common defense against external attack. Their territories extended in 1609 from the St. Lawrence to the Susquehanna, from Lake Champlain and the Hudson to the Genesee, and, a few years later, to the Niagara. There dwelt side by side the Mohawks, the Oneidas, the Onondagas, Cayugas, and the Senecas in the firm union of Ho-de-no-sau-nee, the Long House of the Iroquois.

"The Algonquin tribes that surrounded them were still in the lowest stage of industrial life, and for their food added to the spoils of the chase wild fruit and roots.

"The Iroquois had passed into the agricultural stage. They had settled habitations and cultivated fields. They had extensive orchards of the apple, made sugar from the maple, and raised corn and beans and squash and pumpkin. The surrounding tribes had only the rudimentary political institution of chief and followers. The Iroquois had a carefully devised constitution, well adapted to secure confederate authority in matters of common interest, and local authority in matters of local interest. \* \* \*

"The government was vested in a Council of fifty sachems, a fixed number coming from each nation. The sachems from each nation came in fixed proportions from specific tribes in that nation; the office was hereditary in the tribe, and the member of the tribe to fill it was elected by the tribe. The sachems of each nation governed their own nation in all local affairs. Below the sachems were elected chiefs on the military side and Keepers of the Faith on the religious side. Crime was exceedingly rare; insubordination was unknown; courage, fortitude, and devotion to the common good were universal.

"The territory of the 'Long House' covered the watershed between the St. Lawrence basin and the Atlantic. From it the waters ran into the St. Lawrence, the Hudson, the Delaware, the Susquehanna and the Ohio. Down these lines of communication the war parties of the confederacy passed, beating back or overwhelming their enemies until they had become overlords of a vast region extending far into New England, the Carolinas, the valley of the Mississippi, and to the coast of Lake Huron. \* \* \*

# ABORIGINES OF NEW YORK

MAP OF THE  
CAPTAIN'S DIVISIONS

THE IROQUOIS





“Of all the inhabitants of the New World, they were the most terrible foes and the most capable of organized and sustained warfare, and of all the inhabitants north of Mexico; they were the most civilized and intelligent.”

Whoever became acquainted with the Iroquois in early days realized that they were an extraordinary people. Sir William Johnson, who knew them as well as any Englishman and had, perhaps, more dealing with them than any other officer of the crown, said of them: “They are the most formidable of any uncivilized body of people in the world.”

The nation for which the county is named consisted of about 3,000 in 1776. They are said to have been lovers of peace, were more refined in manners than the other nations, and were the diplomatists of the confederation. Long before the beginning of the 18th century, they had a fixed dwelling place on the western border of what is now Oneida county.

In 1904 the regents of the university of the state of New York caused a history of the New York Iroquois to be prepared by W. M. Beauchamp, S. T. D. The book is known as Bulletin 78, and it contains a map of the territory occupied by the different nations belonging to the league. From this, it appears that the territory of the Oneidas was bounded on the east by a line extending from the St. Lawrence river to a point about 25 miles below Ogdensburg; southerly to Trenton Falls; thence bending slightly easterly to Herkimer and to Oneonta; thence along the northwesterly line of Delaware county to Broome county; thence along the northerly line of Broome county to the Chenango river; thence northwesterly about 15 miles; thence northerly to a point about 3 miles from Oneida lake; thence westerly about 3 or 4 miles; thence northerly across the westerly part of the lake and bearing westerly slightly about 25 miles; thence north bearing slightly eastward to Carthage; thence northwesterly to the St. Lawrence river between Alexandria Bay and Clayton; thence along the river to the place of beginning, the territory being somewhat between 7,000 and 8,000 square miles.

A study of the life and manners of this most interesting people reveals the fact that their comforts were greater and they lived upon a higher plane than is generally supposed. Their food was more abundant and of greater variety than many other of the aborigines. In the spring they made, from the maple trees, their supply of sugar for the year. In the summer there were berries of many varieties and fish of the finest species. In autumn there were nuts, apples, plums, cherries, corn, potatoes, pumpkin, squash and other vegetables, and an abundance of such game as makes the sportsmen of our age most envious of their day. There were bear, moose, deer, wild turkeys, geese, ducks, grouse, wild pigeons, rabbits, squirrels and other game of which they could lay by a supply without serious effort, for their time of need. For clothing, against the rigors of winter, they had the fur of the beaver, otter, fisher, sable, mink and other fur bearing animals, for which the wealthy of the present day pay such prices as would have purchased almost a kingdom in that early period. In fact, no part of the colonies presented better facilities for the comforts of life to the savage than the Mohawk valley.

Not until the ravages of war had swept their valley was want necessarily known among the Indians in this region. Their wigwams or houses were gen-



erally built of bark, and were comfortable even in the severest winter weather. A fire was continually kept burning in them in cold weather, and these people, robed in their furs in the daytime, and lying upon the skins of the moose, bear and deer at night, rested more quietly than the prince in his palace. Their musical instruments were the flute, kettle-drum, and various kinds of rattles. They used nets and bone harpoons, and sometimes lines and bone hooks for fishing. Their boats were dugouts and bark canoes. They made baskets, mats, wooden dishes, including spoons, and many vessels of clay, some of which were ornamented. Some of their clay pipes were ornamented with a figure on the bowl facing the smoker. They used a wooden mortar and pestle for making their corn meal. They buried their grain in the ground, when it would keep for several years. Wampum was used for money, ornaments and other purposes; it was made of shells and of different colors, white, black or dark purple.

Their domestic relations were peculiar. Property was transmitted through the female line. A man was not permitted to marry a woman of his own tribe, and the marriage relations were sacred. Marriage was not founded upon affection, but was recognized as a necessity, and was arranged usually by the mothers of the parties. Polygamy was unknown among them. Although divorce was easily obtained, it was not frequent. Relationship was recognized as far as uncle, aunt and cousin. Sachems were the Head Chiefs, and had great influence among their people.

They had religious leaders who were called "Keepers of the Faith," and they had charge of the festivals and religious services. They believed in a Great Spirit, the Creator of all things; also in the immortality of the soul and an exclusive heaven for the Indians; but, in their admiration of Washington, they accorded him a place in their future celestial abode. They also believed in a place of future punishment for the wicked and in an Evil Spirit who had created reptiles, noxious weeds and monsters. There has been much speculation as to the origin of their religious belief, whether from the Lost Tribes of Israel or otherwise, and it will, in all probability, remain a mystery. It is, however, a singular circumstance that these dwellers in the American wilderness should more nearly attain to the conception of the Christian God than any other nation untaught by revelation. It is stated by Rev. Thomas Donahue, D. D., in his book entitled "The Iroquois and the Jesuits," that "the first foundation of their religious belief is the same as that which formed the principal feature of the religion of the Barbarians who first occupied Greece, and spread through Asia, and which forms the groundwork of all Pagan Mythology." However this may be, it is not our purpose now to inquire, for the Iroquois are taken, for the purpose of this work, as they were in 1700. At this period the belief of these Indians was neither pantheistic, nor idolatrous. They held religious and other assemblies, and had many different modes of recreation. Many of these were called dances. There were about 33 of these dances, some of which were religious, some had reference to war, and some would seem to be solely recreative. Morgan gives a description of them in his work on the Iroquois.

Their game which was held in highest esteem was la crosse. It was played

by chosen representatives from different nations or tribes with as much enthusiasm, and was enjoyed by the large audiences which assembled, as much as are the college football contests of the present day. Another game was called the peachstone game, and was somewhat similar to the game of dice. These peach stones were of different colors, white, black or dark purple. Betting on games was common, and the Indian at times found himself in as sad a plight as the college boy, who bet his last cent on his team and lost, without reserving a sufficient amount of funds to pay his fare back to his alma mater.

Crimes were seldom committed among these Indians. Witchcraft and murder were punished by death, unless the witch confessed and was forgiven, and unless the murderer made atonement to the tribe to which the victim belonged. Adultery was punished by the whipping of the woman. The transgression, however, was very rare. Theft was substantially unknown, but after the white man introduced rum among them, drunkenness was not infrequent. The best men among the Iroquois strenuously opposed the traffic in rum, and pleaded with the white men to desist from selling it to their people. Addressing several of the governors of the colonies, one of the Mohawk chiefs said: "We request of all governors here present that it may be prohibited to carry it (rum) among any of the Five Nations." They had no prisons, and in case of a first offense, if the culprit promised good behavior, he was allowed to go on parole. They had no locks to their houses, no secret places, and larceny was unknown among them.

The Sacred Stone of the Oneidas demands special attention. The Oneida nation was called "People of the Stone," or the "Upright Stone," or the "Granite People," and there is one reference to them in the Indian legends as the "People who lean their backs against the Everlasting Stone." This has reference to their Sacred Stone or altar. The legend in regard to the Stone is as follows: A settlement was made by the Indians on the north shore of Oneida river at the outlet of the lake. One morning there appeared at their camp a granite boulder, which was unlike any other stone in that locality. The Indians were informed that it should be their altar and that it would follow them forever. They moved their habitation to the mouth of the Oneida creek. The Stone, unaided, followed them, and appeared in their midst. From here they removed to near what is now Oneida castle, in Oneida county, and again the Stone appeared among them, unaided. Here it remained as the altar of the nation for hundreds of years. It was around this Stone their great councils were held and their warriors, sages and orators resolved the great questions presented to them, and they here worshipped the Great Spirit.

When the Oneidas left their home and took up their abode in Wisconsin, the Stone did not follow, but remained, a deserted altar.

With the consent of the remnant of the nation which tarried at the "castle," it was removed in 1849 to Forest Hill cemetery in Utica, where it now rests upon a substantial foundation as an everlasting memorial to the Oneida nation. Its weight has been estimated as somewhat less than a ton, and it bears an appropriate tablet.

Bauchamp, in his history of the New York Iroquois, page 160, says that one of their early villages was on Cazenovia lake, but that the earliest village iden-

tified with their name was a mile southeast of Perryville, N. Y., at a remarkable stone, now destroyed, but long venerated by them. He also says that it was from this stone they took the name of the "People of the Stone." However this may be, it is certain that the Oneida Stone, now in the cemetery at Utica, is really all that is claimed for it—the altar of the Oneidas.

Long before the beginning of the eighteenth century, the Catholics had established missions among the Iroquois, but they had not been successful. These early missionaries labored under unusual difficulties. The Iroquois were friendly to the Dutch and English, and the early Catholic missionaries were Frenchmen. This fact was a barrier which was difficult to pass.

There was later, also, another reason, which, to the present generation, may seem most extraordinary. The colonial legislature, on August 7, 1700, passed an act excluding Catholic priests, clergymen and teachers of all kinds from the colonies, and requiring them to leave the country before the first day of November of that year on pain of being "adjudged to Suffer perpetuall Imprisonm't and if any person being So Sentenced and actually Imprisoned shall break prison and make his Escape and be afterwards retaken he shall suffer such pains of Death penalties and forfeitures as in Cases of felony." Any one who harbored a priest or other Catholic teacher was subject to a fine of two hundred and fifty pounds and to sit in pillory for three days and also to be bound to good behavior at the discretion of the court.

At the beginning of the eighteenth century, the Catholics had practically withdrawn their missionaries, as the circumstances seemed to be such that their efforts could not be successful. The fierce opposition did not, however, deter them from re-entering the field some years after.

The first successful mission of the Catholic church during the 18th century was established by Abbe Francis Piquet at Fort Presentation, now Ogdensburg. He was so effective that within two years he had won, from the Onondagas and Cayugas, about three thousand of the Indians to his cause. The effect of the English and French war was so disastrous to this work as to destroy what had been accomplished by the Frenchmen in evangelizing the Iroquois, and about 1760 this mission was abandoned.

In his introduction to the "History of the Diocese of Syracuse," Monsignor J. S. M. Lynch says, "Bishop Du Breuil de Pontbriand, of Quebec, visited the mission in May, 1752. He baptized one hundred and twenty and confirmed a large number. This was, undoubtedly, the first confirmation administered within the limits of the state of New York."

Morgan, in his work entitled "Iroquois Confederation," pays the highest tribute to these early Catholic missionaries. He says: "They traveled the forests of America alone and unprotected; they dwelt in the depths of the wilderness, without shelter and almost without raiment; they passed the perils of Indian captivity and the fires of the torture; they suffered from hunger and violence, but, in the midst of all of them, never forgot the mission with which they were entrusted."

The first Congregational missionary among the Iroquois was Elihu Spencer, who began his work among them in 1748. One of his converts was Peter Agwronongwas, or "Good Peter," who was an eloquent Oneida.





THE GREAT CHIEF OF THE ONEIDAS,  
SKENANDOAH



THE HISTORIC STONE OF THE ONEIDA NATION OR THEIR ALTAR



In 1761 Reverend Samson Occum came from the school of Dr. Wheelock at Lebanon to the Oneidas, and Samuel Kirkland, then a young man, accompanied him. In 1766 there were 127 Oneida and Mohawk boys in the Wheelock school. Reverends C. J. Smith, Theophilus Chamberlain, Eleazer Moseley, Peter and Henry Avery served as missionaries between 1764 and 1774.

Foremost among Protestant missionaries was Samuel Kirkland. He was educated at the school of Dr. Wheelock at Lebanon and at Princeton college. While at these institutions he had Indians as well as white men for his fellow students. Among them, at Dr. Wheelock's school, was the renowned Joseph Brant. He became greatly interested in the welfare of the Iroquois, and, in 1764, Mr. Kirkland commenced his work first among the Senecas. In consequence of a famine among them, he returned East for a time, and during his visit was ordained a minister of the Congregational church. He then returned and took up his work among the Oneidas, and in 1769 he organized a church among them. The famous chief, Skenandoah, was among the converts to Christianity.

It was owing to the influence of Samuel Kirkland, more than to any other cause, that induced the Oneidas to take sides with the colonies against the mother country in the Revolutionary war.

At a meeting of the Sons of the Revolution held February 22, 1911, Reverend Dana W. Bigelow, D. D., in a speech referred to Mr. Kirkland as follows:

"In 1763 one of the college boys at Princeton, a sophomore from Connecticut, son of a Congregational minister, was Samuel Kirkland. He had attended a preparatory school where Indians and white studied together. There he formed with Joseph Brant a friendship which lasted through life. At Princeton he was in a class with Indian boys and he learned something of the Mohawk language. Before his college course was finished, his fixed zealous purpose carried him out for his life work. In January, 1764, he called on Johnson, who gave him counsel and belt of wampum. He went on snowshoes to the most distant and warlike tribe, the Senecas. He did not meet with a warm reception, but was adopted as a member of the tribe. Famine came, and he was obliged to return to the eastern settlements for a brief time. Then he went back to his post for another year. Having been ordained a minister in New England, he settled among the Oneidas for his life work, and here he lived and labored until his death in 1808.

"For five years he received no financial aid; he built his own cabin and tilled his own field. The great enemy he had to fight was the white man's rum. Among the converts were some chiefs, the most noteworthy of all, Skenandoah, great in stature, eloquent in councils, faithful unto death.

"When the Revolutionary war came on, the English tried to get the aid of the Iroquois. Sir John Johnson, Guy Johnson and Joseph Brant represented the British ministry in a mighty endeavor to win the Indian nations to their side. One rock sheltered the people of the frontier. It was the person and influence of Samuel Kirkland. He, too, attended council after council, far and near. He argued and pleaded. It was out of his own heart and his efforts were also in response to urgent requests from the colony that he should exert his utmost influence for the cause of independence. His Oneidas and Tuscaroras fol-

lowed his leadership, and, as far as possible, remained neutral. The stand they took broke the unity of action which was a fundamental law of the confederacy. How great aid he gave to the cause of the American patriots at this crisis of the war in this valley of the Mohawk where the battle of Oriskany was fought that the victory at Saratoga might follow, cannot be set down in figures or told in few words. Over against great forces of evil, appealing to every motive, good and bad, in savage hearts, his influence was on the right side, was exerted to the utmost, and was not in vain.

"After the battle and massacre at Wyoming, in 1779, he was a minister of comfort to 150 widows and their children. Under General Sullivan, in his famous expedition, Kirkland was brigade chaplain to his forces.

"At the close of the war New York state united with his faithful Indians in appreciation of what had been wrought by him, and presented him with a most valuable tract of land or nearly 5,000 acres—the Kirkland Patent, as then known.

"His strenuous life was not yet done. He lived after this for 20 years and near Clinton, still ministering to his scattered people. His heart was not without hope that they might be gathered together and made part of the fabric of civilized society. With this in view, seeking counsel and co-operation with chief men of the state and of the national government, he gave freely of his lands, that on them might be founded an institution that would educate and uplift Indian and white youth.

"On a beautiful September afternoon in the year 1793, a procession left his home and marched to the hill where the corner stone was laid of the Hamilton-Oneida academy, a service rendered by Major-General Baron von Steuben.

"His hopes for the Indians were not realized, for the fragments of the tribes not long after migrated to the distant West. But he had builded wisely, for in 1812 the academy became Hamilton college, whose record in church and state is known to us, and whose future is bright in promise of greater results in promoting the interests of mankind of every land or every race.

"In the college cemetery are the monuments to Kirkland and Skenandoah, who was the noblest trophy of victory over darkness, and we repeat the words once well spoken there: 'Brothers, here sleep the good and the brave.' "

Foremost among the chiefs of the Oneidas was Skenandoah. This is Beauchamp's way of spelling the name, although it has been spelled several different ways by other writers. He is said to have been savage and intemperate in his youth, but he reformed in after life, and was called the noblest counselor among the North American Indians. He was of powerful frame, but mild in manner, yet terrible in conflict. He became a Christian under the ministry of Samuel Kirkland, lived a noble life, and had great influence among his people. It was he, with Kirkland, who influenced the Oneidas first to be neutral, and then to take sides with the colonies against the mother country in the war for independence. He died at Clinton, March 11, 1816, at the age of 110 years, and was buried upon the land of Mr. Kirkland. He was dignified in his bearing, courteous, and a shrewd and able diplomatist. In conversation he avoided saying anything to give offense. As a public speaker he was one of the most eloquent in the nation, and his words were potent in influencing his own peo-





BARON STEUBEN



ple. His speech to a friend shortly before his death is one of the choice pieces of literature. He said, "I am an aged hemlock; the winds of a hundred winters have whistled through my branches; I am dead at the top; the generation to which I belong have run away and left me; why I live, the Great Spirit only knows; pray to my Jesus that I may have patience to wait for my appointed time to die."

In 1700, the Earl of Bellomont, then governor of the colonies, sent a communication to Queen Anne advising the establishing of the Church of England in the colonies to counteract the influence of the Catholics among the Iroquois. King William sent over plate and furniture for a chapel.

Merrill, in speaking on the subject of missions among the Iroquois, says: "The tribe (Oneidas) can boast of being the oldest of our church's Indian missions, dating from the year 1702."

The Reverend Mr. Smith and Reverend Mr. More were sent from England about this time. Mr. More remained for about three years, and was followed by Reverend Thomas Barclay, who remained from 1708 to 1712, and was succeeded by Reverend William Andrews, who remained about six years. He found the work so discouraging that he gave it up in 1718. On returning from the field he said, "Heathen they are, and heathen they will be."

About 1731 Reverend John Milner visited the Mohawks. In 1733 it was reported that there were "but few unbaptized among that nation." Reverend John Ogilvie also ministered to the Mohawks in 1750. Reverend John J. Oel also served the Mohawks, Oneidas and Tuscaroras. He was followed by Reverend John Stewart, who remained as a missionary among them until the breaking out of the war of the Revolution. Mr. Stewart, assisted by Joseph Brant, translated the Gospel of Mark, part of the Acts, and wrote a short history of the Bible in the Mohawk language.

After the Revolutionary war, missionaries were sent among the Oneidas. Bishop Hobert sent Eleazer Williams, who did very effective work among this nation. It was he who has been thought by many to be the renowned Dauphin of France. He was called the son of an Indian woman, but his personal appearance was such as to contradict the statement. As to his lineage there is a mystery. By some he was said to be the son of Reverend Mr. Williams of Deerfield, Massachusetts, and that he had been taken captive by the Indians while a child; by others he was said to be the son of a squaw. Much has been written upon this subject on both sides, but Bloomfield, in his book on "The Oneidas," devotes many pages to the subject. He undoubtedly believed that Mr. Williams was the French prince. The pictures of the two persons that are here given certainly bear much resemblance, and it can safely be said that from their appearance there is better reason for believing that Mr. Williams was the Dauphin of France than that he was the son of a squaw.

In 1750 the Moravians undertook to establish missions among the Six Nations, and sent John C. Pyrlaens and his wife to work among the Onondagas. They, with Anton Seyffert, undertook to reach the Onondagas, but the Oneidas refused to allow them to pass through their territory. By other routes, some of the missionaries of the Moravian church reached the Onondagas and Senecas, but they made no progress in their work among the Oneidas.

The Methodist church sent a missionary among the Oneidas in 1829, in the person of Reverend Dan Barnes. No great impression was made by Mr. Barnes among the Indians, and he was followed by Reverend Rosman Ingalls who, in turn, was followed by Reverend Daniel Faneher. A church was built in 1841, but it was sold with the lands of the Indians, and another building was afterward constructed. The departure of the Oneidas for the west, however, ended the work of the Methodists among that nation in this state.

At the approach of the war for independence, it was an exceedingly important question what would be the position of the Iroquois. The subject was much considered by the Indians, and council after council was held, for, upon its determination, hinged the very existence of the confederation. In a note to Morgan's "League of the Iroquois," the subject is clearly presented. The note is as follows:

"At Onondaga in January, 1777, the annual council fire of the Six Nations was extinguished, seemingly not without bloodshed. The Senecas and Cayugas openly and unitedly espoused the cause of the king; the Mohawks and Onondagas were divided, some for the king, some neutral; the Oneidas and Tuscaroras endeavored to remain neutral, but many of them were soon actively engaged on the American side. These allies gave much aid to the patriots in the border wars of the Revolution, and suffered greatly in consequence. Their faithful friendship and assistance were formally and gratefully recognized by the United States by treaty proclaimed January 21, 1795. If the league had been unanimous under its ancient laws in making war upon Americans it is quite likely that Burgoyne's campaign would have been a British triumph, and that the war would have ended in the success of the royal arms. On the other hand, if the league had espoused the American cause or had remained neutral, it would have been both difficult and unjust to have taken from them an inch of their territory at the end of the war and the settlement of the West, the opening of the Erie canal and all the developments of the Empire state and its chief city would have been long postponed, even if commerce and empire had not been diverted into other channels. Any attempt at the settlement of the country while still under Indian rule would have produced an unendurable state of affairs, much worse than any Transvaal problem. Being abandoned by the British government, the Iroquois had, at the end of the Revolution, no defense except the generosity of the American people."

Too often, in the public mind, the Indian is set down as a cruel monster. It is true that words cannot portray the cruelty of many of their acts, but can it be said that white men are able to throw the first stone? Go to the receptacles for relics of the dark ages in Europe. You will find there instruments of torture, than which nothing can be invented more terrible. To come nearer home, we may find that there were no acts of the Iroquois more brutal than those of the whites who sided with the British in the struggle for independence.

Over against the tortures which the Indians inflicted upon their captives, place the following examples of the white man's mode of warfare: Sir Guy Carlton, governor general of Canada, was commissioned to wage war on land and sea against "all enemies, pirates or rebels either in or out of the province, to take them and put them to death, or preserve them alive, at his discretion."



REV. ELEAZER WILLIAMS AT 17 YEARS  
OF AGE  
(Supposed to be the Dauphin of France)



THE DAUPHIN OF FRANCE  
(LOUIS XVII)  
From a painting



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In connection with this it is to be remembered that the British government paid five dollars apiece for scalps of men, women or children. On one occasion a British captain shipped to Albany 154 dried scalps, and demanded the reward.

Take also a specific act. In 1778, while the Indians were prowling around Schoharie, they killed and scalped a mother and several children. At this juncture a party of loyalists came up to the place, and discovered an infant in its cradle. An Indian warrior, noted for his barbarity, approached the cradle with his uplifted tomahawk. The babe looked into his face and smiled; the tomahawk fell with his arm, and he was about stooping down to take the child in his arms, when one of the Tories, cursing him for his humanity, thrust his bayonet through the smiling child and held him up struggling in death, exclaiming, "This, too is a rebel."

Very much has been written in regard to the bad side of the Indian, but very little in his behalf. It would not be just to place the Iroquois, and particularly the Oneida nation, in the class with ordinary Indians. Many leaders among the Iroquois were great and good men. Foremost was Joseph Brant—Thayendanegea. His prominence, ability and character demand that he should receive a more extended notice than any other man among the Indians. He was the son of a Mohawk chief. It has been claimed frequently, in consequence of the eminence of Brant, that he was at least partly white, but this is error. In one of his letters he expressly states that he was a Mohawk. His father's name was Tehowaghwengaraghkwin, and he was born on the Ohio river in 1742, but the home of his father was the castle at Canajoharie. He was educated at the school of Reverend Doctor Eleazer Wheelock at Lebanon, Connecticut. He acted as an interpreter for Reverend Charles J. Smith, missionary to the Mohawks, and was afterward private secretary to Sir John Johnson. He took part in the early wars in which the Mohawks engaged, and it is claimed by some that he was elected head war chief of the Six Nations. It has been claimed by others that he never was properly elected to that office, but that by his great ability he was accepted as the head war chief, and was the head commander of the war parties of the Iroquois. It was very largely through his influence that the great portion of the league took sides with England in the war of the revolution.

Unlike many other chiefs he was humane in his treatment of prisoners, on many occasions saving the lives of captives in opposition to his own people, and frequently hazarding his own life to accomplish this end. He has been charged with being cruel and taking part in the massacre at Wyoming, but history establishes beyond any question that he was not present at that time. It is true that with his own hand he killed Colonel Wisner, but from his standpoint he did it as a merciful act, as Wisner had been mortally wounded, and, rather than to leave him upon the field to suffer, Brant struck him with his tomahawk and instantly ended his misery and life. It has been charged against him as an act of cruelty that he killed his own son. It is true that his own son died from a slight wound inflicted by his father, but the facts are as follows: The son was a degenerate, a drunkard and a murderer. He had frequently threatened his father's life, and in one of his debauches he attacked his father with a knife. In resisting the attack, the father drew his own knife, struck the

son, and cut him slightly on top of the head. Several days afterwards blood poisoning set in, and from the effect of this the man died. Brant gave himself up, was tried, acquitted, and he received the condolence and sympathy of the court that tried him. This was a great source of sorrow through all the remaining years of his life. It is said that he had been frequently known to weep over it.

Brant was present at the Cherry Valley massacre, but did all he could to prevent cruelty. It is reported that on entering one of the houses Walter Butler ordered a woman and child, who were in bed, to be killed. Brant interfered and said, "What! kill a woman and child! no! that child is not an enemy to the king nor a friend to congress. Long before he will be big enough to do any mischief the dispute will be settled."

After the war Brant settled in Canada, devoted his life to good works, and received marked attention from eminent men in England and America. He translated a portion of the Scriptures into the Mohawk language; was a member of the Episcopal church; built a church for his people; manifested a deep interest in charitable work, and contributed liberally of his means to all good causes.

One would scarcely think of taking counsel on high moral subjects of an Indian, even in our day, but Brant, on one occasion, was asked to give his opinion on the question of whether or not civilization is conducive to happiness. His answer is so remarkable that it is given in part below. It is scarcely surpassed in elevation of thought and power of expression by any philosopher, either ancient or modern. He said:

"You ask me, then, whether in my opinion civilization is favorable to human happiness? In answer to the question, it may be answered, that there are degrees of civilization, from cannibals to the most polite of European nations. The question is not, then, whether a degree of refinement is not conducive to happiness; but whether you, or the natives of this land, have obtained this happy medium. On this subject we are at present, I presume, of very different opinions. You will, however, allow me in some respects to have had the advantage of you in forming my sentiments. I was, sir, born of Indian parents, and lived while a child among those whom you are pleased to call savages; I was afterwards sent to live among the white people, and educated at one of your schools; since which period I have been honored much beyond my deserts, by an acquaintance with a number of principal characters both in Europe and America. After all this experience, and after every exertion to divest myself of prejudice, I am obliged to give my opinion in favor of my own people. I will now, as much as I am able, collect together, and set before you, some of the reasons that have influenced my judgment on the subject now before us. In the government you call civilized, the happiness of the people is constantly sacrificed to the splendor of empire. Hence your codes of criminal and civil laws have had their origin; hence your dungeons and prisons. I will not enlarge on an idea so singular in civilized life, and perhaps disagreeable to you, and will only observe, that among us we have no prisons; we have no pompous parade of courts; we have no written laws; and yet judges are as highly revered amongst us as they are among you, and their decisions are as much regarded.



THE GREAT MOHAWK CHIEF, JOSEPH BRANT





Property, to say the least, is as well guarded, and crimes are as impartially punished. We have among us no splendid villains above the control of our laws. Daring wickedness is here never suffered to triumph over helpless innocence. The estates of widows and orphans are never devoured by enterprising sharpers. In a word, we have no robbery under the color of law. No person among us desires any other reward for performing a brave and worthy action, but the consciousness of having served his nation. Our wise men are called Fathers; they truly sustain that character. They are always accessible, I will not say to the meanest of our people, for we have none mean but such as render themselves so by their vices.

“The palaces and prisons among you form a most dreadful contrast. Go to the former places, and you will see perhaps a *deformed piece of earth* assuming airs that become none but the Great Spirit above. Go to one of your prisons; here description utterly fails! Kill them, if you please; kill them, too, by tortures; but let the torture last no longer than a day. Those you call savages relent; the most furious of our tormentors exhausts his rage in a few hours, and dispatches his unhappy victim with a sudden stroke. Perhaps it is eligible that incorrigible offenders should sometimes be cut off. Let it be done in a way that is not degrading to human nature. Let such unhappy men have an opportunity, by their fortitude, of making an atonement in some measure for the crimes they have committed during their lives.

“But for what are many of your prisoners confined?—for debt!—astonishing!—and will you ever again call the Indian nations cruel? Liberty, to a rational creature, as much exceeds property as the light of the sun does that of the most twinkling star. But you put them on a level, to the everlasting disgrace of civilization. I knew, while I lived among the white people, many of the most amiable contract debts, and I dare say with the best intentions. Both parties at the time of the contract expect to find their advantage. The debtor, we will suppose by a train of unavoidable misfortunes, fails; here is no crime, nor even a fault; and yet your laws put it in the power of the creditor to throw the debtor into prison and confine him there for life! a punishment infinitely worse than death to a brave man! And I seriously declare, I had rather die by the most severe tortures ever inflicted on this continent, than languish in one of your prisons for a single year. Great Spirit of the Universe!—and do you call yourselves Christians? Does then the religion of Him whom you call your Saviour, inspire this spirit, and lead to these practices? Surely, no. It is recorded of him, that a bruised reed he never broke. Cease, then, to call yourselves Christians, lest you publish to the world your hypocrisy. Cease, too, to call other nations savages, when you are tenfold more the children of cruelty than they.”

If space permitted much more could be said concerning the acts, ability and character of this remarkable man.

Among the characteristics of the Iroquois chiefs and head men were dignity, self control and eloquence.

About 1800, a religious reformer appeared among the Iroquois. He claimed a divine mission, and wrought a revolution among the Indians by his great personality and high moral teaching. He was called Ga-ne-o-di'-yo or “Hand-

some Lake." He was a Seneca sachem of the highest class. He also had a descendant who was their great religious teacher and who was called So-se-ha'-wä. No better idea can be conveyed of the ability of these two men than to quote portions of their sermons. As the Indians had no written language, the teachings or addresses of their religious teacher were handed down by tradition, and the teachings of "Handsome Lake" were delivered to the league through a grandson, So-se-há-wä. He recited these speeches precisely the same, as is reported by those who heard him, on many occasions. The following is So-se-há-wä's introduction to one of his speeches, in which he recites what he claims to have been the teachings of his grandfather:

"Chiefs, warriors, women and children—We give you a cordial welcome. The sun has advanced far in his path, and I am warned that my time to instruct you is limited to the meridian sun. I must therefore hasten to perform my duty. Turn your minds to the Great Spirit, and listen with strict attention. Think seriously upon what I am about to speak. Reflect upon it well, that it may benefit you and your children. I thank the Great Spirit that he has spared the lives of so many of you to be present on this occasion. I return thanks to him that my life is yet spared. The Great Spirit looked down from heaven upon the sufferings and the wanderings of his red children. He saw they had greatly decreased and degenerated. He saw the ravages of the fire-water among them. He therefore raised up for them a sacred instructor, who having lived and traveled among them for sixteen years, was called from his labors to enjoy eternal felicity with the Great Spirit in heaven."

Sose-há-wä then, at great length, presented the teaching of his grandfather, but we can only here give a very small portion of the address, and that only for the purpose of showing the eloquence and deep religious thought contained in it:

"I have a message to deliver to you. The servants of the Great Spirit have told me that I should yet live upon the earth to become an instructor to my people. Since the creation of man, the Great Spirit has often raised up men to teach his children what they should do to please him; but they have been unfaithful to their trust. I hope I shall profit by their example. Your Creator has seen that you have transgressed greatly against his laws. He made man pure and good. He did not intend that he should sin. You commit a great sin in taking the fire-water. The Great Spirit says that you must abandon this enticing habit. Your ancestors have brought great misery and suffering upon you. They first took the fire-water of the white man, and entailed upon you its consequences. None of them have gone to heaven. The fire-water does not belong to you. It was made for the white man beyond the great waters. For the white man it is a medicine, but they too have violated the will of their Maker. The Great Spirit says that drunkenness is a great crime, and he forbids you to indulge in this evil habit. His command is to the old and young. The abandonment of its use will relieve much of your sufferings, and greatly increase the comfort and happiness of your children. The Great Spirit is grieved that so much crime and wickedness should defile the earth. There are many evils which he never intended should exist among his red children. The Great Spirit has, for many wise reasons, withheld from man the number of his days;



but he has not left him without a guide, for he has pointed out to him the path in which he may safely tread the journey of life.

“When the Great Spirit made man, he also made woman. He instituted marriage, and enjoined upon them to love each other, and be faithful. It is pleasing to him to see men and women obey his will. Your Creator abhors a deceiver and hypocrite.

“By obeying his commands you will die an easy and a happy death. When the Great Spirit instituted marriage, he ordained to bless those who were faithful with children. Some women were unfruitful, and others became so by misfortune. Such have great opportunities to do much good. There are many orphans, and many poor children whom they can adopt as their own. If you tie up the clothes of an orphan child, the Great Spirit will notice it, and reward you for it. Should an orphan ever cross your path, be kind to him, and treat him with tenderness, for this is right. Parents must constantly teach their children morality, and a reverence for their Creator. \* \* \*

“When a child is born to a husband and wife, they must give great thanks to the Great Spirit, for it is his gift, and an evidence of his kindness. Let parents instruct their children in their duty to the Great Spirit, to their parents, and to their fellow men. Children should obey their parents and guardians, and submit to them in all things. Disobedient children occasion great pain and misery. They wound their parents’ feelings, and often drive them to desperation, causing them great distress, and final admission into the place of evil spirits. The marriage obligations should generate good to all who have assumed them. Let the married be faithful to each other, that when they die it may be in peace. Children should never permit their parents to suffer in their old age. Be kind to them, and support them. The Great Spirit requires all children to love, revere and obey their parents. To do this is highly pleasing to him. The happiness of parents is greatly increased by the affection and the attentions of their children. To abandon a wife or children is a great wrong, and produces many evils. It is wrong for a father or mother-in-law to vex a son or daughter-in-law; but they should use them as if they were their own children. It often happens that parents hold angry disputes over their infant child. This is also a great sin. \* \* \*

“All men were made equal by the Great Spirit; but he has given to them a variety of gifts. To some a pretty face, to others an ugly one; to some a comely form, to others a deformed figure. Some are fortunate in collecting around them worldly goods. But you are all entitled to the same privileges, and therefore must put pride from among you. You are not your own makers, nor the builders of you own fortunes. All things are the gifts of the Great Spirit and to him must be returned thanks for their bestowal. He alone must be acknowledged as the giver. It has pleased him to make differences among men; but it is wrong for one man to exalt himself above another. Love each other, for you are all brothers and sisters of the same great family. The Great Spirit enjoins upon all, to observe hospitality and kindness, especially to the needy and the helpless; for this is pleasing to him. If a stranger wanders about your abode, speak to him with kind words; be hospitable towards him, welcome him to your home, and forget not always to mention the Great Spirit.

In the morning give thanks to the Great Spirit for the return of day, and the light of the sun; at night renew your thanks to him, that his ruling power has preserved you from harm during the day, and that night has again come, on which you may rest your wearied bodies.\* \* \*

"Speak evil of no one. If you can say no good of a person, then be silent. Let not your tongues betray you into evil. Let all be mindful of this; for these are the words of our Creator. Let us strive to cultivate friendship with those who surround us. This is pleasing to the Great Spirit. \* \* \* "

He then ceases to quote from "Handsome Lake," and closes his own address as follows:

"The four messengers further said to Handsome Lake, they were fearful that, unless the people repented and obeyed his commands, the patience and forbearance of their Creator would be exhausted; that he would grow angry with them, and cause their increase to cease.

"Our Creator made light and darkness. He made the sun to heat, and shine over the world. He made the moon, also, to shine by night, and to cool the world, if the sun made it too hot by day. The keeper of the clouds, by direction of the Great Spirit, will then cease to act. The keeper of the springs and running brooks will cease to rule them for the good of man. The sun will cease to fulfil its office. Total darkness will then cover the earth. A great smoke will rise, and spread over the face of the earth. Then will come out of it all monsters, and poisonous animals created by the evil-minded; and they, with the wicked upon the earth, will perish together.

"But before this dreadful time shall come, the Great Spirit will take home to himself all the good and faithful. They will lay themselves down to sleep, and from this sleep of death, they will rise, and go home to their Creator. Thus they said.

"I have now done. I close thus, that you may remember and understand the fate which awaits the earth and the unfaithful and unbelieving. Our Creator looks down upon us. The four Beings from above see us. They witness with pleasure this assemblage, and rejoice at the object for which it is gathered. It is now forty-eight years since we first began to listen to the renewed will of our Creator. I have been unable during the time allotted to me, to rehearse all the sayings of Ga-ne-o-di'-yo. I regret very much that you cannot hear them all.

"Counsellors, warriors, women and children—I have done. I thank you all for your attendance, and for your kind and patient attention. May the Great Spirit, who rules all things, watch over and protect you from every harm and danger, while you travel the journey of life. May the Great Spirit bless you all, and bestow upon you life, health, peace and prosperity: and may you, in turn, appreciate his great goodness. Naho'."

The eloquence of the Iroquois was also frequently shown in conversation. It is related of Hone-yost, or Honaguwus, an Oneida chief, that when he heard the Revolutionary war was ended he said: "The Great Spirit spoke to the whirlwind, and it was still."

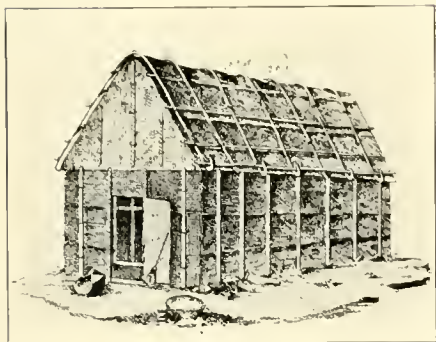
In one of the councils called by Samuel Kirkland to further education among them, one of the chiefs said: "You, my friends, are increasing, and we



Iroquois Girl, Ga-hah-no,  
in costume



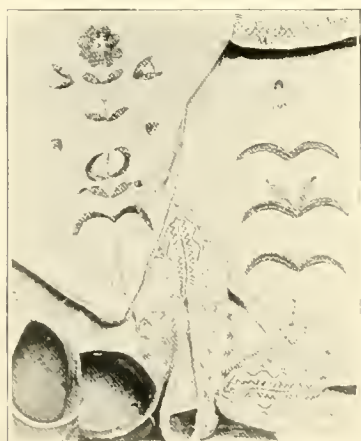
Iroquois Indian young man,  
Da-ab-de-a, in costume



Iroquois Indian house Ga-no-sote



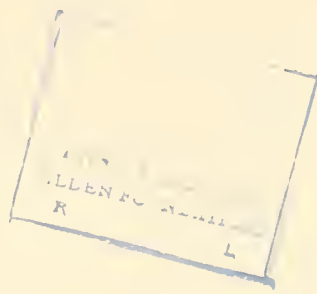
Iroquois ornamental work, Gos-to-weh  
or headdress



Ornamental work of the Iroquois  
Indians upon buckskin with  
moosehair and porcupine  
quills



Ga-ka-ah or skirt





are decreasing. Our canoes were once on the rivers and lakes, which are now full of your great ships. The land which you bought of us for a trifle you now sell for thousands of dollars. Your villages and great cities cover the land where once rose the smoke of our wigwams. Why this difference? It is the curse of the Great Spirit resting upon us for some unknown sin."

Much has been said and written upon the subject of the United States taking the lands of the Indians without proper compensation. Undoubtedly there were many abuses in regard to purchasing land of the Indians, but there is one phase of the question which is rarely mentioned, and which presents the situation in a different light, so far as the government of the United States is concerned and the Iroquois nations.

It must be remembered that all of the nations of the Iroquois league, except the Oneidas and a portion of the Tuscaroras, took sides with England; that by the treaty of peace between Great Britain and the United States all the territory controlled by the Iroquois was ceded by Great Britain to this government. The Five Nations, which had cast their lot with England and had been conquered in the war, had, according to the rules of war, forfeited their domain to their conquerors. The United States, therefore, had the right to insist on the forfeiture of all the land controlled by the Mohawks, Onondagas, Cayugas and Senecas. The Tuscarora nation was divided, and if the unfriendly part controlled any territory, that, also, belonged to the United States government for the same reason. The Oneidas and a portion of the Tuscaroras were in a very different situation, and were entitled to the greatest consideration on the part of the government.

Largely through the influence of Washington and General Schuyler the unfriendly Indians were accorded merciful treatment. They had been abandoned by their friends, the English, and were left without any protection from the United States government. After many negotiations between representatives of the Iroquois and the Federal government a settlement was made of the whole question, and the lands of the unfriendly Indians were ceded to the United States, except such reservations as had been agreed upon between the contracting parties.

The services rendered by the Oneidas to the colonies cannot well be overestimated. As guides, scouts and spies they many times did what white men could not have accomplished. They also aimed to prevent cruelties, and rendered protection to the white settlers in the valley of the Mohawk. They carried on the war on the principle of civilized nations.

Stone, in his life of Joseph Brant, says of them: "They neither hurt the women, children or old men, nor took the scalps of those whom they killed. 'We do not take scalps,' said one of their chiefs, 'and we hope you are now convinced of our friendship to you in your great cause.'"

In 1823 a large number of the Oneidas removed to Green Bay, Wisconsin. They were opposed to the removal, but were helpless to resist. The government concluded a treaty with them and the Tuscaroras, giving them about 65,000 acres of land near Green Bay, Wisconsin, in exchange for their territory in the state of New York.

In opposing the removal the eloquent Oneida chief, Daniel Bread, among



other things, said to the governor of this state: "Father, the white men are powerful and they are rich. You can turn the rivers of the waters; you can dig away the mountains; why then do you want the little spot that we have? It is but a little time since, and we possessed the whole country; now you have gained all but a few spots. Why will you not permit us to remain?"

The march of civilization, however, said that the Indian must go, and they sorrowfully took their departure for their home in the west, where, on Green Bay, they were accorded a strip of land about eight or nine miles wide and twelve miles long. A small stream flowed through it, and there were fish, game and wild fowl there in abundance. Here they have made their home since, and have learned more thoroughly the art of husbandry than they had known it before.

Peace between the United States and England was concluded in 1783. In 1795 a treaty was made with the Oneidas, Onondagas and Cayugas, and the bounds of the lands of the Senecas were specified. The Oneidas, Tuscaroras and Stockbridge Indians were paid for their losses during the war at the same time.

In 1796 it was estimated that there were 1,031 Oneida Indians still in New York.

In 1845 Henry R. Schoolcraft was employed by the state to take a census of the Indians. He reported 210 Oneidas in this state and 722 in Wisconsin. The government census of 1890 showed 212 Oneidas in this state, and the census of 1910 showed only 37 Oneidas within the county of Oneida, while at the present time, 1911, there are only about 100 still remaining within the state. These are all that now remain within this commonwealth of the once famous and powerful O-ná-yote-kä-o-no.

## CHAPTER II

### FRENCH-ENGLISH-INDIAN WAR

In 1754 the controversy between Great Britain and France had taken such shape that it was evident war in America between them was imminent. The Iroquois Confederation was an important factor to be considered, and the British ministry advised the Colonies to secure, if possible, the support of the Six Nations.

The Colonies were notified to send representatives to a council to be held at Albany in 1754, but only seven of them responded to the call. It was to this council that the plan of confederation among the colonies, prepared by Dr. Franklin, was submitted and adopted by the council, but afterward rejected by the colonies themselves, acting independently of each other.

An amicable agreement was made by the English and the Six Nations for mutual support against the French. With the English upon one side and the French upon the other there was continuous controversy and some armed conflicts, although no declaration of war had been made, and this condition continued for more than a year, without either side gaining any especial advantage over the other.

Then followed the disastrous year of 1755, for the British. Braddock was defeated and slain at Fort Duquesne. General John Winslow, with 3,000 men, sailed from Boston for the Arcadian country, landed at the head of the Bay of Fonda, and was joined there by Colonel Monekton and about 400 regulars. He then took and destroyed the settlements of the Arcadians and carried away the people. This expedition of Winslow's has ever been severely condemned, and has furnished rich material for song and story.

It was in this year that Governor Shirley of Massachusetts, then commander-in-chief of the British forces in America, made his expedition to Oswego, intending to take Niagara and Frontenac, but failed.

Sir William Johnson also undertook the capture of Crown Point, but failed, although he repelled the attack of Baron Dieskau, who, with about 2,000 Canadians and Indians had come from Montreal to drive the English from that part of the country.

Up to this time no important military encounter between the English and French had occurred in the Mohawk valley. Forts Craven, Bull, Williams and Newport had been erected, in whole or in part, at Rome, and some preparation had been made by the colonies for the impending arbitrament of arms. New York was destined to be the principal place of conflict. The colony, by its legislature, voted to raise a liberal sum to carry on the war and to raise 2,680 men, and offered a bounty of 15 pounds for each volunteer.

In 1756 M. De Lery, in command of about 362 men, of which about 100 were Indians, having passed from Montreal by the way of Ogdensburg and the Black river and then by land to what is now Rome, captured and destroyed Fort Bull. This fort was located on Wood creek near the westerly terminal of the "Carrying Place." De Lery reached this vicinity on March 27, early in the morning, attacked Fort Bull garrisoned by about 60 men, captured the fort, a large quantity of stores and ammunition, put nearly the whole garrison to death, and escaped with substantially no loss to himself.

Fort Williams was situated on the Mohawk, and was not attacked by De Lery. The distance between Fort Williams and Fort Bull is supposed to have been between two and four miles. The history of Fort Williams is somewhat uncertain. It was said to have been much more formidable than Fort Bull, but little more is known about its early history.

This incursion of De Lery's resulted in a loss of one soldier and one Indian killed and five men wounded, while the loss to the English is said to have been ninety men, of which only thirty were made prisoners. It was estimated by the French commander that he had destroyed about 40,000 pounds of powder.

At about this time a conference of the Six Nations was held at the residence of Sir William Johnson at Johnstown, with reference to the political situation. Sir William also visited the Oneida Indians in June, and met the representatives of the Iroquois League at Onondaga July 19, 1756. On his return from the council he stopped with the Oneidas and heard their complaints against Captain Williams, who was the commander of Fort Williams, and the officer in whose honor the fort was named. It does not appear what the complaints were, but soon thereafter he was relieved from command and placed upon half pay.

It was during this summer that Colonel Bradstreet made his ascent of the Mohawk for the purpose of re-enforcing and carrying munitions of war to Oswego. He left Albany in June with 200 men, a number of boats and 32 cannon, together with ammunition and supplies, as it had then been determined to fortify at Oswego. He reached his destination July 1, and three days after, started on his return. He had proceeded only about ten miles when he was suddenly attacked at Battle Island, July 3, by a body of French under M. de Villiares, but he repulsed the assault with severe loss, and hastened back through the Mohawk valley to Albany. Lieutenant, afterwards General Philip Schuyler accompanied this expedition.

Sir William Johnson, Colonel Bradstreet and General Schuyler endeavored, in vain, to convince the Earl of Loudon, then the commander-in-chief, of the necessity of protecting the Mohawk valley by an armed force. Their warning was unheeded for some time. They also used their endeavor to convince Loudon that Oswego was a strategic point, to be well fortified and guarded.

Too tardily did Loudon awake to the necessity of doing what had been recommended by his subordinates, but at last he sent Colonel Webb, with a force of about 1,500 men, up the Mohawk valley to Oswego to re-enforce the garrison and to repel the threatened attack by the French. Assistance did not arrive, Oswego was attacked by Montcalm; its commander, Colonel Mercer, was killed, and the garrison was compelled to surrender. The French report

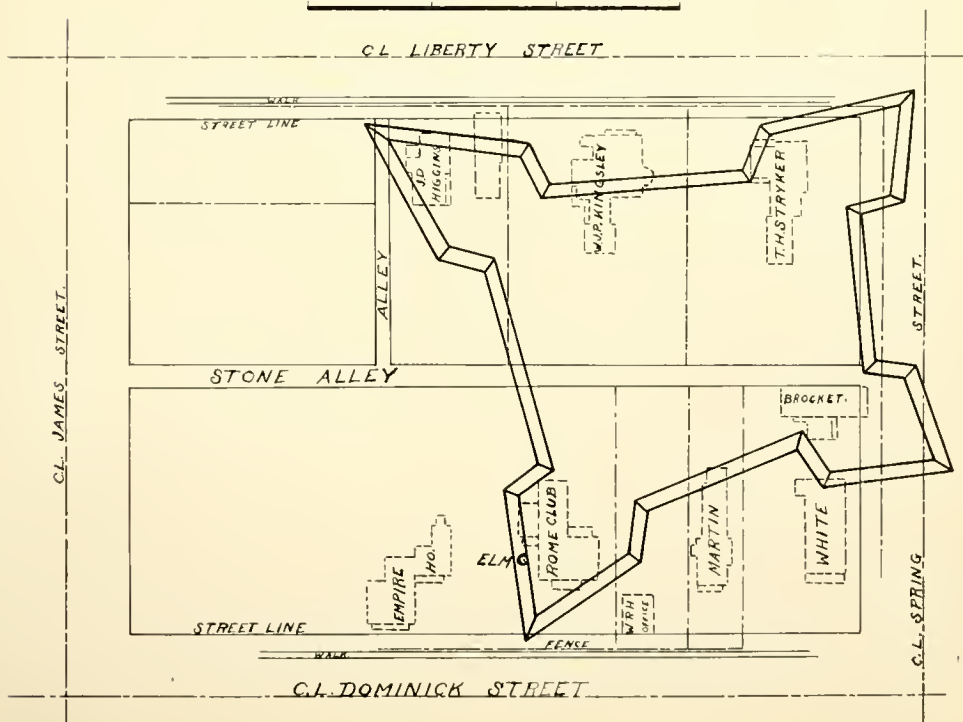


SITE OF FORT STANWIX. CANNON MARKING THE SOUTHWEST BASTION.  
THE BUILDING IS NOW THE ROME CLUB

## FORT STANWIX.

*Scale.*

0 100 200 300







states that "the Indians perpetrated a multitude of horrors and assassinated more than a hundred persons included in the capitulation, without our being able to prevent or having the right to remonstrate."

Colonel Webb had proceeded as far as Wood creek when he heard that Oswego had fallen. When he received this news he destroyed all the forts at the Carrying Place, caused trees to be felled across Wood creek to impede the progress of Montcalm's army should he, as was expected, make an advance from Oswego to the Mohawk valley, and then hastened with all speed back to Albany, to the disgust of his Indian allies.

Sir William Johnson had been ordered by Loudon to go to the assistance of Webb, but it was too late. Webb was already upon his retreat before Johnson could render any assistance. For his conduct Webb has been severely criticised, as having been a coward or utterly incompetent.

Up to this time the war had gone decidedly against the English. The French held Oswego, Niagara, Ticonderoga, Crown Point, and, after the retreat of Webb, the Mohawk valley was virtually abandoned by the British.

M. de Bellestre, with a body of French Canadians and Indians, made inroads into the Mohawk valley in 1757. He passed down the valley in November, and on the 12th destroyed the village of German Flats, took several small fortifications, and returned entirely unmolested. He destroyed much property, killed about 40 of the inhabitants, and carried away about 150 more.

General Abercrombie, then in full command of the British forces, had been warned by Johnson and the Indians of the threatened attack by de Bellestre, but paid no attention to the warning.

In 1758 General Stanwix was sent to the Carrying Place to build a fort. Pomroy Jones, in his "Annals of Oneida County," says that this fort cost 60,000 pounds, and that it was built on the most "approved scientific principles of military engineering, having four bastions surrounded by a broad ditch eighteen feet deep, with a covert way and glacis. In the center of the ditch was a row of perpendicular pickets, and a horizontal row from the ramparts."

It is stated by Lossing (page 198), that Colonel Bradstreet, when on his return from Frontenac with his troops, assisted in building this fortification. Bradstreet had been sent with 3,000 men to take Frontenac, now Kingston, Canada. This he accomplished without serious resistance, captured the fort, garrison and shipping, losing only three or four men. Afterwards, however, he lost a large number of his men by sickness. It is estimated that about 500 died, and the sickness is supposed to have been caused by bad water.

The progress of the war during 1758 had been most favorable to the English. In the next year, 1759, a determined effort was made by the English government to drive the French from the continent. The commander-in-chief, Jeffrey Amherst, with a strong force, drove the French from Ticonderoga and northward into Canada. Wolfe defeated Montcalm at Quebec, and General Prideaux, with Sir William Johnson as second in command, undertook the capture of Niagara. He had 3,100 soldiers and Indians, and on July 20 he commenced the attack, and was killed the first day. Johnson immediately assumed command, and handled his forces most skilfully. He was attacked in the rear by about 3,000 French and Indians, but repelled the attack, and

the next day, July 25, the fort, with its garrison and about 700 men and a large quantity of supplies, was surrendered. Johnson was not able to procure transportation for his army, in order to re-enforce Wolfe at Quebec, so he returned to the Mohawk valley.

It was in this year that Fort Schuyler was built near the ford, which is now near the foot of Genesee street, Utica. Dr. Bagg, in his "Pioneers of Utica," describes this fort as follows: "This fort, which was designated to guard the fording place in the Mohawk river above it, was situated on the south bank, a very little distance southeast of the present intersection of Second street and the Central Railroad. The left bank of Ballou's creek, which joins the river just below, was formerly much depressed a short distance above its mouth, so as to form, in high water, a lagoon that must have reached almost to the walls of the fort, and thus have facilitated the landing and embarkation of troops. The fort consisted of an embankment surrounded by palisades, nearly all traces of which had disappeared at the time of the arrival of the first settlers, although its site could still be distinguished less than thirty years ago by the presence of a large apple tree that had been planted within the inclosure. It was named in honor of Colonel Peter Schuyler, an uncle of General Philip Schuyler of the Revolution. During and subsequent to this war it went by the name of Old Fort Schuyler, to distinguish it from another fortress erected at Rome, and which was sometimes known as Fort Schuyler, though it had been christened and was therefore more correctly called Fort Stanwix."

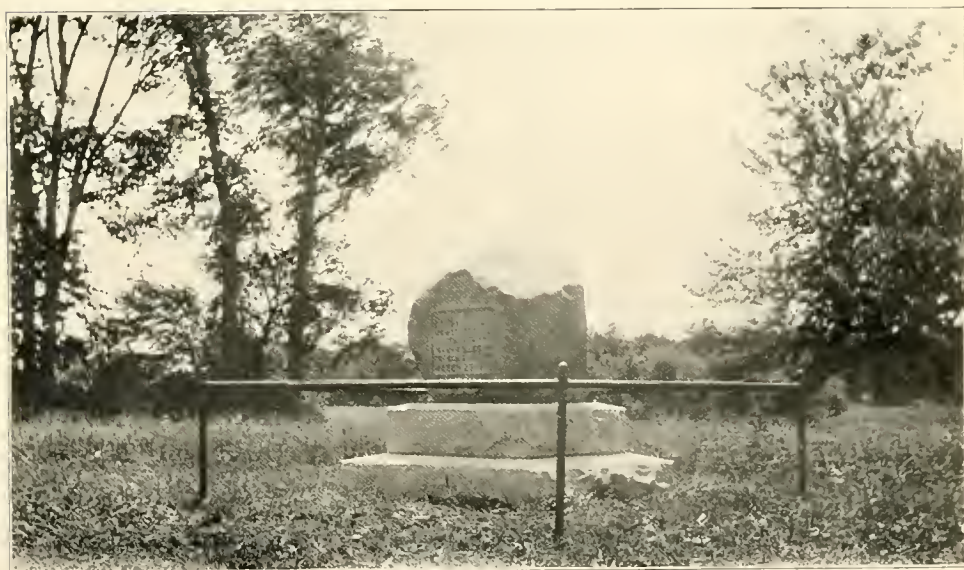
At the opening of the campaign of 1760 there were undertaken three grand operations by the British military forces for the purpose of dealing a crushing blow to the French on the American continent.

Vaudreuil, the French commander, concentrated his forces at Montreal. Amherst, with 10,000 men and 1,000 Indians under Sir William Johnson, passed up the Mohawk valley and on to Oswego, and advanced on Montreal. General Murray, with 4,000 men (Wolfe's army), arrived in front of the city on the same day, September 6; on the very next day, Colonel Haviland arrived with 3,000 men, making a combined force of nearly 17,000. Against this formidable army resistance on the side of the French was useless, and on September 8, 1760, Vaudreuil surrendered the city and all the French territory in Canada to the British government.

Thus passed away the French power in the American colonies. A continent had been lost and won; and, although no more fighting occurred between the British, French and Americans, the treaty of peace was not concluded between the two great nations until February 10, 1763, in Paris. From the surrender of Montreal until the stirring events of the Revolutionary war peace reigned in the Valley of the Mohawk.



FORT SCHUYLER (CORNER PARK AVENUE AND MAIN STREET)



SITE OF FORT BULL AT THE WESTERLY END OF THE CARRY ON FISH CREEK

THE  
PUE  
AS  
FIL  
P



## CHAPTER III

### REVOLUTIONARY WAR

From 1760 to July 4, 1776, there had been many acts of the British government oppressive to the American colonies. An act had been passed imposing a duty upon sugar, coffee and other articles imported from the West Indies. The "Writ of Assistancce," which authorized the searching of any citizen's house or store to find therein goods imported without the payment of duty, had given rise to fierce opposition, and the famous Stamp Act had been imposed upon the Americans.

The eloquence of Patrick Henry of Virginia, and James Otis of Massachusetts in denunciation of these measures was the vocal expression of what was in every patriot's mind. Public meetings were held to denounce these acts of oppression, and a congress of delegates from several of the colonies was held in New York in October, 1765, to put its condemnation of them in formal shape.

On the first day of November, 1765, the Stamp Act was to take effect. The feeling of opposition was so intense that the day was set apart as a day of mourning. Bells were tolled, funeral processions paraded the streets, ships lowered their flags to half mast, buildings were draped in mourning, and other evidences of intense opposition were manifested throughout the colonies.

It was expected that in the accession of William Pitt to the office of Premier of England some remedies would be applied, and such was the case, but these remedial acts did not allay the excitement caused by the ill-advised measures of prior ministries. The Pitt government insisted upon the fundamental principle, with others, of former ministries, that the government had the right to tax the colonies without their consent.

This was intolerable to the Americans, and, so long as this principle was insisted upon by the home government, no reconciliation was possible. Even a duty on tea would not be tolerated. New York and Philadelphia refused to allow ships laden with this commodity to land their cargoes, and the renowned "Tea Party" of Boston might have occurred at any other seaport in the colonies had occasion afforded an opportunity.

As if an intent existed in Parliament to add fuel to the fire, it had enacted a bill closing the port of Boston to imports. It was also provided that the trial of Americans should be had in England instead of in the colonies, and British troops were sent to Boston to enforce these obnoxious laws.

Anglo-Saxon could not and would not longer submit. Then came Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill and July 4, 1776, the day above all others, on which Liberty, civil and religious, came into the world.

It is probable that the first public assembly held in what is now Oneida



county to consider the grave questions which had arisen between the colonies and the mother country, was held in July, 1774, in the district of Tryon county. A committee was appointed at this time to confer with others and to take charge of operations.

The spirit which had been manifested elsewhere in the colonies existed also among the sturdy Germans and Hollanders who had settled along the fertile valley of the Mohawk. Sir William Johnson, who had great influence with them, died in 1774. His death was very sudden, and it is claimed by Campbell, in his *Annals*, that it was caused by his own hand, because of the threatened contest between the king and the colonies, and realizing that he would soon be called upon to decide between his government and the colonies, he preferred to die. Colonel Stone, however, in his life of Joseph Brant, says that Sir William died of apoplexy.

He was succeeded by his son, Sir John, and he, with a nephew, Guy Johnson, exerted all their influence with the Iroquois Indians to hold them to the side of the king in the impending conflict.

Philip Schuyler, Reverend Samuel Kirkland and General Nicholas Herkimer were equally persistent in their efforts to induce the Indians to side with the colonies, or, at least, to remain neutral.

Nicholas Herkimer was chairman of the Tryon county committee, and he was afterwards created a brigadier general, placed in command of the militia in the Mohawk valley, and won immortality in the bloody ravine at Oriskany.

As an evidence of the unsettled state of the public mind at this time it is a notable fact that Washington passed through the city of New York, on his way to take command of the Continental army then at Boston, and was received with great attention. At the same time Governor Tryon, intensely British in his sympathies, who had been on a visit to England, returned, and was accorded a cordial reception.

Even at this time hopes were entertained that some satisfactory settlement of differences might be made without resort to arms. This hope was, however, illy founded, and the Continental Congress commenced preparation for war, called for 20,000 men, and appointed major and brigadier generals, Philip Schuyler being named as one of the former and placed in command of the northern district, which included central New York.

In 1775 Colonel Guy Johnson, with his armed force, passed up the Mohawk valley. He held a council with the Indians at Fort Stanwix, then went on to Oswego, and finally settled at Montreal. With him were Colonel Butler and his son, Walter Butler. Joseph Brant, with his Indians, also joined Johnson at Oswego.

Sir John Johnson, although an ardent royalist, remained at Johnstown and made preparation to defend his opinions by force of arms. The loyalists also commenced arming themselves, and were ready to accept the wager of war.

The National Congress recognized the importance of Fort Stanwix, and had ordered it repaired. This work was done under the direction of Colonel Dayton by the Tryon county militia.

The meeting between General Herkimer and Joseph Brant at Unadilla had been productive of no result; and, although it is probable that Herkimer

had hoped to induce Brant to join the colonists, or, at least, to remain neutral, his hopes were doomed to disappointment. It is most probable that, had the great Mohawk chief cast his lot with the Americans, the history of the Mohawk valley would have been a different story. His ability and his influence with the Indians were so great that, undoubtedly, the Mohawk nation would have followed his leadership, and, perhaps, the entire Iroquois confederacy. It was after his conference with Herkimer that Brant joined Guy Johnson at Oswego.

The Tryon County Committee required of Sir John to declare himself either for or against the king. October 26, General Herkimer, as chairman of that committee, addressed a letter to him requesting the right to form military companies according to the regulations of the Continental Congress, and also asked "if your honor would be ready himself to give his personal assistance to the same purpose?" He also asked if Johnson would "hinder" the use of the public buildings of the county in the interest of the colonies. Johnson addressed Herkimer in a lengthy letter, which was entirely unsatisfactory to the committee.

Johnson promised neutrality, but, being suspected of violating his promise, a regiment of soldiers was sent to arrest him, and he fled with his family and retainers to Canada. His property and effects were afterwards confiscated by the colonies. At about this time an armed conflict occurred between the Patriots and Tories in Schoharie, and Tory as well as Patriot was arming in the Mohawk valley ready for the coming conflict.

Although the Iroquois Indians had pledged themselves to neutrality, all but the Oneidas and a portion of the Tuscaroras soon cast their lot with the king. This was unquestionably largely due to the influence of Joseph Brant—Thayendanegea.

Discouraging reports came from other parts of the country. Washington had been defeated in the battles of Long Island and White Plains, lost New York City, and retreated southward through New Jersey. The patriot cause had also fared illy in central New York, and at the beginning of the eventful year 1777, the condition of the Americans was desperate, bordering on a state of general hopelessness.

Alarming reports kept the inhabitants of the Mohawk valley in constant fear of Indian and Tory depredations. Some of the Tories of central New York were contemplating leaving their homes and joining the king's forces. Others of the inhabitants, fearing the final outcome, placed themselves under the protection of the loyalists. From the Schoharie country came distressing accounts and a call for help.

Momentous consequences depended upon what should be done within the next few months. It was recognized in England, as well as in America, that a crisis in affairs between the two countries was at hand.

The British ministry had planned a campaign for the summer of 1777 that was intended to put an end to the revolution in America. This plan was as follows: Sir Henry Clinton, who was in New York City, was to ascend the Hudson river with a considerable force to Albany; Burgoyne, an able soldier, who was in Canada with about 7,000 men, was to pass southward along the

west shore of Lake Champlain, capture Fort Ticonderoga, sweep down the Hudson valley and join Clinton at Albany; Colonel Barry St. Leger was to leave Oswego, cut his way through the forest, capture Fort Stanwix, pass down the Mohawk valley, lay that beautiful valley desolate, rouse the Tories and Indians on the way, and join forces with Clinton and Burgoyne at Albany.

Speaking of the plan, Mr. E. S. Creasy, in his book entitled "Fifteen Decisive Battles of the World," in discussing the battle of Saratoga, says: "Without question, the plan was ably formed; and, had the success of the execution been equal to the ingenuity of the design, the reconquest or submission of the thirteen United States must in all human probability have followed, and the independence which they proclaimed in 1776 would have been extinguished before it existed a second year. No European power had as yet come forward to aid America. It is true that England was generally regarded with jealousy and ill will, and was thought to have acquired, at the treaty of Paris, a preponderance of dominion which was perilous to the balance of power; but though many were willing to wound, none had yet ventured to strike; and America, if defeated in 1777, would have been suffered to fall unaided."

The defeat and capture of Burgoyne's army at Saratoga was made possible by two other events, which, at the time, were not considered as important by any means as subsequent occurrences proved them to be. The battles of Oriskany and Bennington made Gates's victory over Burgoyne possible.

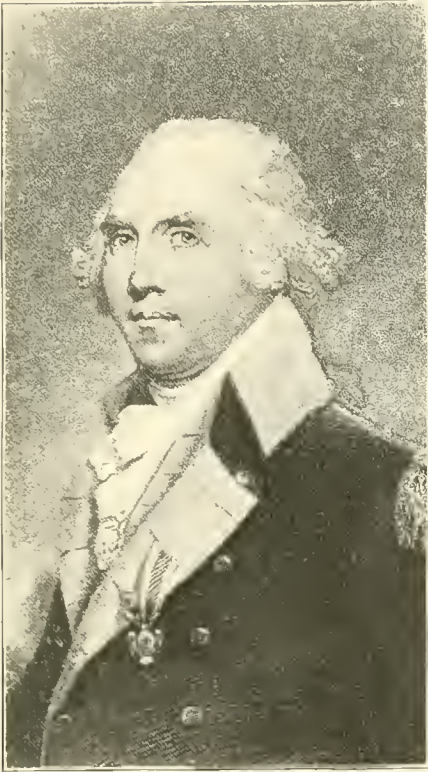
During the summer of 1777 the British government was making its preparation to prosecute the war in America with greater vigor, and it was apparent that the state of New York was to be the battle ground, not only for that state and America, but for Republican institutions in the world.

One of the principal acts in the tragedy about to be played was to be performed in the valley of the Mohawk and in what is now Oneida county. The scene opened July 17, when General Herkimer issued his famous proclamation calling the inhabitants of Tryon county to arms. He announced the gathering of St. Leger's army at Oswego, and called on those in health between 16 and 60 years of age to prepare for active service, and those over 60 to prepare to defend the women and children; the disaffected were to be arrested, placed under guard, and required to join the main body of his army.

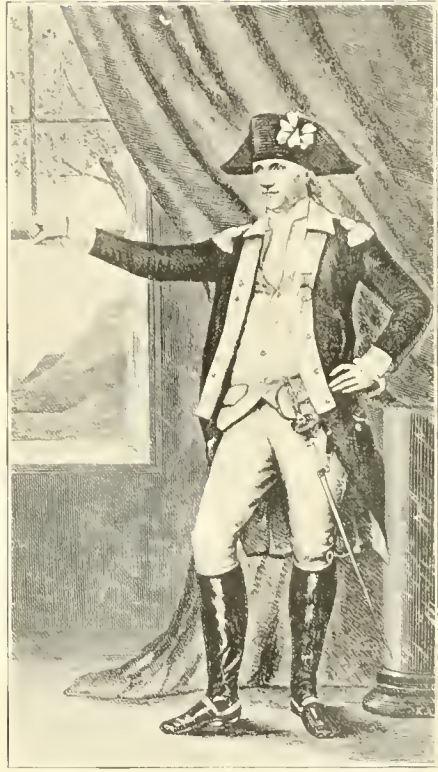
The Oneida Indians were most excited over the threatened invasion, and requested General Schuyler to send troops to Fort Stanwix (at this time Fort Schuyler), to defend it against St. Leger. The importance of St. Leger's attempt to capture Fort Stanwix and desolate the Mohawk valley appears from the fact that it was planned in England, and was a part of the grand plan to crush the rebellion in the East; and it was thought by the ministry that if the plan was successful, resistance to the royal authority would cease in the South without further bloodshed. By the king's command Lieutenant Col. Barry St. Leger was given 675 trained soldiers and a large number of Canadians and Indians, the last under the famous Mohawk chief, Joseph Brant. The total force of St. Leger was slightly over 1,700. He had also eight pieces of artillery. The fort was commanded by Colonel Peter Gansevoort, with Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett second in command.

Before the arrival of St. Leger in the Mohawk valley the Indians had been





**COLONEL PETER GANSEVOORT**  
 Commander at Fort Stanwix during the  
 siege by St. Leger



**LIEUTENANT COLONEL MARINUS  
 WILLETT**  
 Second in command at Fort Stanwix





skulking about near the Fort and committing depredations and murder. Captain Gregg and Corporal Madison, who had gone out of the fort to shoot birds, were attacked, and Madison, killed and scalped, Gregg, shot and scalped, but survived. Soon after this three girls were picking berries near the fort and were attacked by Indians, two of them killed and the other wounded. Colonel Gansevoort described the conditions of affairs in and about the fort in a letter to General Schuyler on July 4, and called for re-enforcements and supplies. The crimes of the Indians increased until no one could venture from the fort except well armed forces, and even one of these parties was attacked, several of them killed, and the officer in command taken prisoner.

Lieutenant Colonel Mellon had reached the fort with a re-enforcement of about 200 men the day before Joseph Brant, with his Indians, and Lieutenant Bird arrived at the head of St. Leger's advancing forces. Brant was so close upon Colonel Mellon that his Indians captured the officers in charge of the stores brought to the fort by Mellon.

Colonel St. Leger, with the main body of his army, invested the fort on August 3. His force was made up of British regulars, Hessians, New York Loyalists, called "Johnson's Greens," together with a number of Canadians and the Indians under Joseph Brant—Thayendanegea, Sir John Johnson, Colonel Claus and Colonel Butler. A flag was sent into the fort on August 3 by St. Leger, and a pompous demand for a surrender was made. He offered employment to those who would join his standard, security to the infirm, and payment in coin for all the supplies the people would bring to his camp, and in conclusion he said: "If, notwithstanding these endeavors and sincere inclinations to effect them, the frenzy of hostility should remain, I trust I shall stand acquitted in the eyes of God and man in denouncing and executing the vengeance of the state against the wilful outcasts. The messengers of justice and of right await them in the field; and devastation, famine and every concomitant horror that a reluctant but indispensable prosecution of military duty must occasion, will bar the way to their return" This manifesto, however, produced no effect upon the commandant of the fort, and the demand to surrender was promptly refused.

It is sometimes in the world's history that momentous consequences hang upon minor events. Such was the case with the defense of Fort Stanwix. It was an event, not only important to Oneida county, to the state of New York, to the national government, but to the world. Cowardice or incompetency within the fort might have changed the history of America and the world. Had St. Leger succeeded, the Mohawk valley would have been at his feet, the tide would have turned in favor of the king, Burgoyne's defeat would most likely have been turned into a victory, France would not have given its essential aid to the American cause, and British arms would have prevailed. But ability and superb courage within the fort, aided by the same qualities among the yeomanry of Tryon county, worked out most important results and changed the "tide of times."

The fort was fully invested on August 4, and hostilities commenced. The Indians were scattered through the woods so as to entirely surround the fort, and at night kept up their hideous yelling. Through the Oneida Indians the

inhabitants of the valley had been informed of the approach of St. Leger, but not until their houses and families were threatened by the invading army were they aroused sufficiently to rally to Herkimer's support.

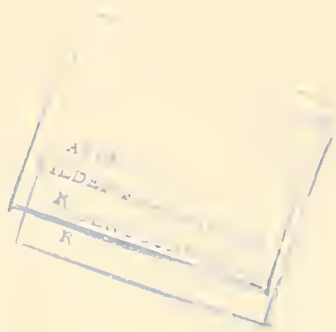
There have been many descriptions of the battle of Oriskany and the siege of Fort Stanwix both in history and in fiction. All of these descriptions are, in substance, taken from Colonel Stone's "Life of Joseph Brant," and none of them have improved upon the description given in that excellent book, and we, therefore, quote his description in full:

"No sooner was the advance of St. Leger upon Fort Schuyler known to the committee and officers of Tryon county, than General Herkimer, in conformity with the proclamation heretofore cited, summoned the militia of his command to the field, for the purpose of marching to the succor of the garrison. Notwithstanding the despondency that had prevailed in the early part of the summer, the call was nobly responded to, not only by the militia, but by the gentlemen of the county, and most of the members of the committee, who entered the field either as officers or private volunteers. The fears so generally and so recently indulged seemed all to have vanished with the arrival of the invader, and the general soon found himself at the head of between eight hundred and a thousand men, all eager for action and impatient of delay. Their place of rendezvous was at Fort Dayton (German Flats), in the upper section of the Mohawk valley—and the most beautiful. The regiments were those of Colonels Klock, Visseher, Cox, and one or two others, augmented by volunteers and volunteer officers, who were pushing forward as though determined at all hazards to redeem the character of the county. Indeed, their proceedings were by far too impetuous, since they hurried forward in their march without order or precaution, without adequate flanking parties, and without reconnoitering the ground over which they were to pass. They moved from Fort Dayton on the 4th, and on the 5th reached the neighborhood of Oriskany, where they encamped. From this point an express was sent forward by General Herkimer to apprise Colonel Gansevoort of his approach, and to concert measures of co-operation. The arrival of the express at the fort was to be announced by three successive discharges of cannon, the report of which, it was supposed, would be distinctly heard at Oriskany—only eight miles distant. Delays, however, intervened, so that the messengers did not reach the fort until ten or eleven o'clock the following morning: previous to which the camp of the enemy being uncommonly silent, a portion of their troops had been observed by the garrison to be moving along the edge of the woods down the river, in the direction of the Oriskany creek. The concerted signals were immediately fired; and as the proposition of Herkimer was to force a passage to the fort, arrangements were immediately made by Colonel Gansevoort to effect a diversion of the enemy's attention, by making a sally from the fort upon the hostile camp, for which purpose two hundred men were detailed, consisting one half of Gansevoort's, and one half of the Massachusetts troops, and one field piece—an iron three pounder. The execution of the enterprise was entrusted to Colonel Willett.

"It appears that on the morning of that day, which was the 6th of August, General Herkimer had misgivings as to the propriety of advancing any far-



STATUE OF COLONEL GANSEVOORT IN THE PARK AT ROME





ther without first receiving reinforcements. His officers, however, were eager to press forward. A consultation was held, in which some of the officers manifested much impatience at any delay, while the general still urged them to remain where they were until reinforcements could come up, or at least until the signal of a sortie should be received from the fort. High words ensued, during which Colonels Cox and Paris, and many others, denounced their commander to his face as a Tory and coward. The brave old man calmly replied that he considered himself placed over them as a father, and that it was not his wish to lead them into any difficulty from which he could not extricate them. Burning, as they now seemed, to meet the enemy, he told them roundly that they would run at his first appearance. But his remonstrances were unavailing. Their clamor increased, and their reproaches were repeated, until, stung by imputations of cowardice and a want of fidelity to the cause, and somewhat irritated withal, the General immediately gave the order—'March on!' The words were no sooner heard than the troops gave a shout, and moved, or rather rushed forward. They marched in files of two deep, preceded by an advanced guard and keeping flanks upon each side.

"Having, by 10 o'clock, proceeded rapidly forward to the distance of only two or three miles, the guards, both front and flanks, were suddenly shot down, the forest rang with the warwhoops of a savage foe, and in an instant the greater part of the division found itself in the midst of a formidable ambuscade. Colonel St. Leger, it appeared, having heard of the advance of General Herkimer, in order to prevent an attack in his intrenchments, had detached a division of Sir John Johnson's regiment of Greens, under Sir John's brother-in-law, Major Watts, Colonel Butler with his Rangers, and Joseph Brant with a strong body of Indians, to intercept his approach. With true Indian sagacity, Thayendanegea had selected a position admirably fitted for his purpose, which was, to draw the Americans, whom he well knew to be approaching in no very good military array, into an ambuscade. The locality favored his design. There was a deep ravine crossing the path which Herkimer with his undisciplined array was traversing, 'sweeping toward the east in a semi-circular form, and bearing a northern and southern direction. The bottom of this ravine was marshy, and the road crossed it by means of a causeway. The ground, thus partly enclosed by the ravine, was elevated and level. The ambuscade was laid upon the high ground west of the ravine.'

"The enemy had disposed himself adroitly, in a circle, leaving only a narrow segment open for the admission of the ill-starred Provincials on their approach. The stratagem was successful. Unconscious of the presence of the foe, Herkimer, with his whole army excepting the rear-guard, composed of Colonel Visseher's regiment, found himself encompassed at the first fire—the enemy closing up the gap at the instant of making himself known. By thus early completing the circle, the baggage and ammunition wagons, which had just descended into the ravine, were cut off and separated from the main body, as was also the regiment of Colonel Visseher, yet on the eastern side of the ravine; which, as their general had predicted, instantly and ingloriously fled, leaving their companions to their fate. They were pursued, however, by a portion of the Indians, and suffered more severely, probably, than they would



have done, had they stood by their fellows in the hour of need, either to conquer or to fall.

"Being thrown into irretrievable disorder by the suddenness of the surprise and the destructiveness of the fire, which was close and brisk from every side, the division was for a time threatened with annihilation. At every opportunity the savages, concealed behind the trunks of trees, darted forward with knife and tomahawk to ensure the destruction of those who fell; and many and fierce were the conflicts that ensued hand to hand. The veteran Herkimer fell, wounded, in the early part of the action—a musket ball having passed through and killed his horse, and shattered his own leg just below the knee. The general was placed upon his saddle, however, against the trunk of a tree for his support, and thus continued to order the battle. Colonel Cox, and Captains Davis and VanSluyck, were severally killed near the commencement of the engagement; and the slaughter of their broken ranks, from the rifles of the Tories and the spears and tomahawks of the Indians, was dreadful. But even in this deplorable situation the wounded general, his men dropping like leaves around him, and the forest resounding with the horrid yells of the savages, ringing high and wild over the din of battle, behaved with the most perfect firmness and composure. The action had lasted about forty-five minutes in great disorder, before the Provincials formed themselves into circles in order to repel the attacks of the enemy, who were concentrating, and closing in upon them from all sides. From this moment the resistance of the Provincials was more effective, and the enemy attempted to charge with the bayonet. The firing ceased for a time, excepting the scattering discharges of musquetry from the Indians; and as the bayonets crossed, the contest became a death struggle, hand to hand and foot to foot. Never, however, did brave men stand a charge with more dauntless courage, and the enemy for the moment seemed to recoil—just at the instant when the work of death was arrested by a heavy shower of rain, which suddenly broke upon the combatants with great fury. The storm raged for upward of an hour, during which time the enemy sought such shelter as might be found among the trees at a respectful distance; for they had already suffered severely, notwithstanding the advantages in their favor.

"During this suspension of the battle, both parties had time to look about, and make such new dispositions as they pleased for attack and defense, on renewing the murderous conflict. The Provincials, under the direction of their general, were so fortunate as to take possession of an advantageous piece of ground, upon which his men formed themselves into a circle, and as the shower broke away, awaited the movements of the enemy. In the early part of the battle, the Indians, whenever they saw a gun fired by a militiaman from behind a tree, rushed up and tomahawked him before he could reload. In order to counteract this mode of warfare, two men were stationed behind a single tree, one only to fire at a time—the other reserving his fire until the Indians ran up as before. The fight was presently renewed, and by the new arrangement, and the cool execution done by the fire of the militia forming the main circle, the Indians were made to suffer severely; so much so, that they began to give way, when Major Watts came up with a reinforcement,

consisting of another detachment of Johnson's Greens. These men were mostly loyalists, who had fled from Tryon county, now returned in arms against their former neighbors. As no quarrels are so bitter as those of families, so no wars are so cruel and passionate as those called civil. Many of the Provincials and Greens were known to each other; and as they advanced so near as to afford opportunities of mutual recognition, the contest became, if possible, more of a death struggle than before. Mutual resentments, and feelings of hate and revenge, raged in their bosoms. The Provincials fired upon them as they advanced, and then springing like chafed tigers from their covers, attacked them with their bayonets and the butts of their muskets, or both parties in closer contact throttled each other and drew their knives; stabbing, and sometimes literally dying in one another's embrace.

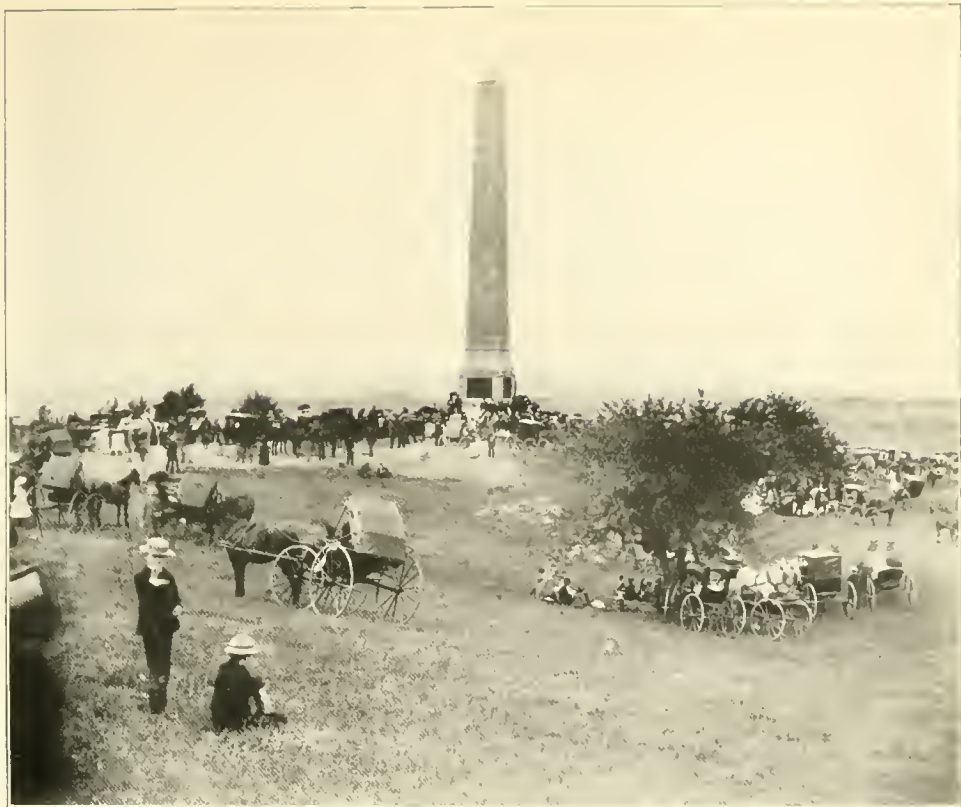
"At length a firing was heard in the distance from the fort, a sound as welcome to the Provincials as it was astounding to the enemy. Availing themselves of the hint, however, a ruse-de-guerre was attempted by Colonel Butler, which had well-nigh proved fatal. It was the sending, suddenly, from the direction of the fort, a detachment of Greens disguised as American troops, in the expectation that they might be received as a timely reinforcement from the garrison. Lieutenant Jacob Sammons was the first to desery their approach, in the direction of a body of men commanded by Captain Jacob Gardenier—an officer who, during that memorable day, performed prodigies of valor. Perceiving that their hats were American, Sammons informed Captain Gardenier that succors from the fort were coming up. The quick eye of the Captain detected the ruse, and he replied—'Not so; they are enemies; don't you see their green coats!' They continued to advance until hailed by Gardenier, at which moment one of his own soldiers, observing an acquaintance, and supposing him a friend, ran to meet him, and presented his hand. It was grasped, but with no friendly grip, as the credulous fellow was dragged into the opposing line, and informed that he was a prisoner. He did not yield without a struggle; during which Gardenier, watching the action and the result, sprang forward, and with a blow from his spear leveled the captor to the dust and liberated his man. Others of the foe instantly set upon him, of whom he slew the second and wounded a third. Three of the disguised Greens now sprang upon him, and one of his spurs becoming entangled in their clothes, he was thrown to the ground. Still contending, however, with almost superhuman strength, both of his thighs were transfixed to the earth by the bayonets of two of his assailants, while the third presented a bayonet to his breast, as if to thrust him through. Seizing this bayonet with his left hand, by a sudden wrench he brought its owner down upon himself, where he held him as a shield against the arms of the others, until one of his own men, Adam Miller, observing the struggle, flew to his rescue. As the assailants turned upon their new adversary, Gardenier rose upon his seat; and although his hand was severely lacerated by grasping the bayonet which had been drawn through it, he seized his spear lying by his side, and quick as lightning planted it to the barb in the side of the assailant with whom he had been clenched. The man fell and expired—proving to be Lieutenant M'Donald, one of the loyalist officers from Tryon county. All this transpired in far less time than is necessarily occupied

by the relation. While engaged in the struggle some of his own men called out to Gardenier—'for God's sake, Captain, you are killing your own men!' He replied—'they are not our men—they are the enemy—fire away!' A deadly fire from the Provincials ensued, during which about thirty of the Greens fell slain, and many Indian warriors. The parties once more rushed upon each other with bayonet and spear, grappling and fighting with terrible fury; while the shattering of shafts and the clashing of steel mingled with every dread sound of war and death, and the savage yells, more hideous than all, presented a scene which can be more easily imagined than described. The unparalleled fortitude and bravery of Captain Gardenier infused fresh spirits into his men, some of whom enacted wonders of valor likewise. It happened during the melee, in which the contending parties were mingled in great confusion, that three of Johnson's Greens rushed within the circle of the Provincials, and attempted to make prisoner of a Captain Dillenback. This officer had declared he would never be taken alive, and he was not. One of his three assailants seized his gun, but he suddenly wrenched it from him, and felled him with the butt. He shot the second dead, and thrust the third through with his bayonet. But in the moment of his triumph at an exploit of which even the mighty Hector, or either of the sons of Zeruiah might have been proud, a ball laid this brave man low in the dust.

"Such a conflict as this could not be continued long; and the Indians, perceiving with what ardor the Provincials maintained the fight, and finding their own numbers sadly diminished, now raised the retreating cry of 'Oonah!' and fled in every direction, under the shouts and hurrahs of the surviving Provincials and a shower of bullets. Finding, moreover, from the firing at the fort, that their presence was necessary elsewhere, the Greens and Rangers now retreated precipitately, leaving the victorious militia of Tryon county masters of the field.

"Thus ended one of the severest, and, for the numbers engaged, one of the most bloody battles of the Revolutionary war. Though victorious, the loss of the Provincials was very heavy, and Tryon county had reason to mourn that day. Colonel Paris was taken prisoner by the enemy, and afterward murdered by the Indians. Several other prisoners were also killed by the savages, after they had been brought into Colonel Butler's quarters; and, as it was said, by the Colonel's own tacit consent, if not permission in terms. But the general character of that officer forbids the imputation. Major John Frey, of Colonel Klock's regiment, was likewise wounded and taken; and to show the more than savage fury burning in the bosoms of the men brought into conflict on this occasion, the disgraceful fact may be added, that his own brother, who was in the British service, attempted to take his life after he had arrived in Butler's camp. The Major saw his brother approaching in a menacing manner, and called out—'Brother, do not kill me! Do you not know me?' But the infuriated brother rushed forward, and the Major was only saved by the interposition of others. The whole number of the Provincial militia killed was two hundred, exclusive of wounded and lost as prisoners. Such, at least, was the American report. The British statements claimed that four hundred of the Americans were killed, and two hundred taken prisoners.





DEDICATION OF THE HERKIMER MONUMENT ON THE ORISKANY  
BATTLEFIELD, AUGUST 6, 1884.

Erected in the year 1883, by the Oneida Historical Society to the memory of  
General Nicholas Herkimer and his associate patriots, who fought  
in the battle August 6, 1777.



THE SWAMP OF THE ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD

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“Retaining possession of the field, the survivors immediately set themselves at work in constructing rude litters, upon which to bear off the wounded. Between forty and fifty of these, among whom was the commanding general, were removed in this manner. The brave old man, notwithstanding the imprudence of the morning—imprudence in allowing a premature movement at the dictation of his subordinates—had nobly vindicated his character for courage during the day. Though wounded, as we have seen, in the onset, he had borne himself during the six hours of conflict, under the most trying circumstances, with a degree of fortitude and composure worthy of all admiration. Nor was his example without effect in sustaining his troops amid the perils by which they were environed. At one time during the battle, while sitting upon his saddle raised upon a little hillock, being advised to select a less exposed situation, he replied—‘I will face the enemy.’ Thus, ‘surrounded by a few men, he continued to issue his orders with firmness. In this situation, and in the heat of the onslaught, he deliberately took his tinder-box from his pocket, lit his pipe, and smoked with great composure.’ At the moment the soldiers were placing him on the litter, while adjusting the blankets to the poles, three Indians approached, and were instantly shot down by the unerring rifles of three of the militia. These were the last shots fired in that battle.

“The loss of the enemy in this engagement was equally, if not more severe, than that of the Americans. The Greens and Rangers of Sir John Johnson and Colonel Butler must have suffered badly, although no returns were given in the contemporaneous accounts. Major Watts was severely wounded and left on the field, as was supposed, among the slain. His death was reported by Colonel Willett in his letter to Governor Trumbell, and by others in authority. But such was not the fact. Reviving from faintness produced by loss of blood, some hours after the action, he succeeded in crawling to a brook, where, by slaking his thirst, he was preserved from speedy death, and in the course of two or three days was found by some Indian scouts, and brought into St. Leger’s camp. But the Indians were the most roughly handled, they having lost nearly one hundred warriors, several of whom were sachems in great favor. Frederick Sammons, who had been detached upon a distant scout previous to the battle, returning some days afterward, crossed the battlefield, where, he says, ‘I beheld the most shocking sight I had ever witnessed. The Indians and white men were mingled with one another, just as they had been left when death had first completed his work. Many bodies had also been torn to pieces by wild beasts.’

“It has been affirmed that the Indians were persuaded to join in this battle only with great difficulty, and not until they had been induced to sacrifice their reason to their appetites. It was very manifest that during the action many of them were intoxicated. The consequence was, that they suffered more severely than ever before. According to the narrative of Mary Jemison, the Indians (at least the Senecas), were deceived into the campaign. ‘They were sent for to see the British whip the rebels. They were told that they were not wanted to fight, but merely to sit down, smoke their pipes, and look on. The Senecas went to a man; but, contrary to their expectation, instead of smoking and looking on, they were obliged to fight for their lives; and in the end of the battle were completely beaten, with a great loss of killed and wounded.’

“The whole Indian force was led by Thayendanegea in person—‘the great Captain of the Six Nations,’ as he was then called—and as the Cayngas had now likewise joined the Mohawks in alliance with the arms of England—the Onondagas adopting a doubtful policy, but always, in fact, acting against the Provincials—he must have had a large force in the field. Of the Senecas about thirty-six were killed, and a great number wounded. Captain Brant was accustomed, long years afterward, to speak of the sufferings of his ‘poor Mohawks’ in the battle. Indeed, the severity with which they were handled on that occasion, rendered them morose and intractable during the remainder of the campaign; and the unhappy prisoners were the first to minister with their blood to their resentment. ‘Our town,’ says Mary Jemison, ‘exhibited a scene of real sorrow and distress when our warriors returned and recounted their misfortunes, and stated the real loss they had sustained in the engagement. The mourning was excessive, and was expressed by the most doleful yells, shrieks, and howlings, and by inimitable gesticulations.’

“It was unfortunate that General Herkimer formed his line of march with so little judgment that, when attacked, his men were in no situation to support each other; and more unfortunate still, that he marched at all, so long before he could expect to hear the concerted signal for the diversion to be made in his favor by the sortie of Colonel Willett. The heavy rain storm, moreover, which caused a suspension of the battle, had likewise the effect of delaying the sally for nearly an hour. It was made, however, as soon as it was practicable, and was not only completely successful, but was conducted with such ability and spirit by the gallant officer to whom it was confided, as to win for him the applause of the foe himself. In addition to the two hundred men detailed for this service, under Colonel Willett’s command, as before stated, fifty more were added to guard the light iron three pounder already mentioned. With these troops, and this his only piece of mounted ordnance, Colonel Willett lost not a moment, after the cessation of the rain, in making the sally. The enemy’s sentinels being directly in sight of the fort, the most rapid movements were necessary. The sentinels were driven in, and his advanced guard attacked, before he had time to form his troops. Sir John Johnson, whose regiment was not more than two hundred yards distant from the advanced guard, it being very warm, was in his tent, divested of his coat at the moment, and had not time to put it on before his camp was assailed. Such, moreover, were the celerity of Willett’s movement and the impetuosity of the attack, that Sir John could not bring his troops into order, and their only resource was in flight. The Indian encampment was next to that of Sir John, and in turn was carried with equal rapidity. The larger portion of the Indians, and a detachment from the regiment of Sir John, were, at the very moment of this unexpected assault upon their quarters, engaged in the battle of Oriskany. Those who were left behind now betook themselves,—Sir John and his men to the river,—and the Indians to their natural shelter, the woods—the troops of Colonel Willett firing briskly upon them in their flight. The amount of spoil found in the enemy’s camp was so great, that Willett was obliged to send hastily to the fort for wagons to convey it away. Seven of these vehicles were three times loaded and discharged in the fort, while the brave little Pro-

vineial band held possession of the encampments. Among the spoils thus captured, consisting of camp equipage, clothing, blankets, stores, etc., were five British standards, the baggage of Sir John Johnson, with all his papers, the baggage of a number of other officers, with memoranda, journals, and orderly books, containing all the information desirable on the part of the besieged. While Colonel Willett was returning to the fort, Colonel St. Leger, who was on the opposite side of the river, attempted a movement to intercept him. Willett's position, however, enabled him to form his troops so as to give the enemy a full fire in front, while at the same time he was enfiladed by the fire of a small field-piece. The distance was not more than sixty yards between them; and although St. Leger was not backward in returning the fire, his aim was nevertheless so wild as to be entirely without effect. The assailants returned into the fortress in triumph, without having lost a man—the British flags were hoisted on the flag-staff under the American—and the men, ascending the parapets, gave three as hearty cheers as were ever shouted by the same number of voices. Among the prisoners brought off by the victors was Lieutenant Singleton, of Sir John Johnson's regiment. Several Indians were found dead in their camp, and others were killed in crossing the river. The loss to the enemy, particularly in stores and baggage, was great; while the affair itself was of still more importance, from the new spirit of patriotic enthusiasm with which it inspired the little garrison. For this chivalrous exploit Congress passed a resolution of thanks, and directed the Commissary General of military stores to procure an elegant sword, and present the same to Colonel Willett in the name of the United States.

“General Herkimer did not long survive the battle. He was conveyed to his own house near the Mohawk river, a few miles below the Little Falls; where his leg, which had been shattered five or six inches below the knee, was amputated about ten days after the battle by a young French surgeon in the army of General Arnold, and contrary to the advice of the general's own medical adviser, the late Doctor Petrie. But the operation was unskilfully performed, and it was found impossible by his attendants to staunch the blood. Colonel Willett called to see the general soon after the operation. He was sitting up in his bed, with a pipe in his mouth, smoking, and talking in excellent spirits. He died the night following that visit. His friend, Colonel John Roff, was present at the amputation, and affirmed that he bore the operation with uncommon fortitude. He was likewise with him at the time of his death. The blood continuing to flow—there being no physician in immediate attendance—and being himself satisfied that the time of his departure was nigh, the veteran directed the Holy Bible to be brought to him. He then opened it, and read, in the presence of those who surrounded his bed, with all the composure which it was possible for any man to exhibit, the thirty-eighth psalm—applying it to his own situation. He soon afterward expired; and it may well be questioned whether the annals of man furnish a more striking example of Christian heroism—calm, deliberate, and firm in the hour of death—than is presented in this remarkable instance. Of the early history of General Herkimer but little is known. It has been already stated that his family was one of the first of the Germans who planted themselves in the



Mohawk valley. And the massive stone mansion, yet standing at German Flats, bespeaks its early opulence. He was an uneducated man, with, if possible, less skill in letters, even than General Putnam, which is saying much. But he was, nevertheless, a man of strong and vigorous understanding—destitute of some of the essential requisites of generalship, but of the most cool and dauntless courage. These traits were all strikingly disclosed in the brief and bloody expedition to Oriskany. But he must have been well acquainted with that most important of all books—The Bible. Nor could the most learned biblical scholar, lay or clerical, have selected a portion of the Sacred Scriptures more exactly appropriate to the situation of the dying soldier, than that to which he himself spontaneously turned. If Socrates died like a philosopher, and Rousseau like an unbelieving sentimentalist, General Herkimer died like a Christian hero. Congress passed a resolution requesting the Governor and Council of New York to erect a monument at the expense of the United States, to the memory of this brave man, of the value of five hundred dollars. This resolution was transmitted to the governor of New York, George Clinton, in a letter from which the following passage is quoted:—'Every mark of distinction shown to the memory of such illustrious men as offer up their lives for the liberty and happiness of their country, reflects real honor on those who pay the tribute; and by holding up to others the prospect of fame and immortality, will animate them to tread in the same path.' Governor Clinton thus wrote to the committee of Tryon county on the occasion:—'Enclosed you have a letter and resolve of Congress, for erecting a monument to the memory of your late gallant General. While with you I lament the cause, I am impressed with a due sense of the great and justly merited honor the Continent has, in this instance, paid to the memory of that brave man.' Such were the feelings of respect for the services and memory of the deceased entertained by the great men of that day. Sixty years have since rolled away, and the journal of Congress is the only monument, and the resolution itself the only inscription, which as yet testify the gratitude of the republic to General Nicholas Herkimer."

Strange to say, even the grave of General Herkimer remained substantially unmarked until Warren Herkimer, the grand-nephew of Captain Charles Herkimer, who fought at Oriskany, erected a monument to the memory of his great-uncle. Since then, however, by the assistance of the government, the state and private contributions, a substantial and beautiful shaft has been erected at the grave of the illustrious soldier. The village of Herkimer has also paid due respect to the hero for whom it is named, by placing in its park a bronze statue of General Herkimer by a son of United States Senator Warner Miller, Burr Miller, who has won fame as an artist. The monument received honorable mention at the recent Exposition in Paris, France.

The result of the battle of Oriskany was such that both sides claimed a victory, but the Americans held the field. St. Leger continued the siege of the fort until, fearing the advance of Arnold with re-enforcements and through a stratagem instigated by Arnold, he was frightened into a hasty retreat, and made as rapid return to Canada as possible.

Great suffering was endured by the prisoners who were captured by the



ONE OF THE RAVINES OF THE ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD LOOKING WESTWARD



THE EASTERLY RAVINE OF THE ORISKANY BATTLEFIELD  
LOOKING NORTHERLY





English and Indians at the battle of Oriskany. Moses Younglove, who was taken prisoner but afterwards returned to civilization, described it in a poem, and the horrors of the torture inflicted by the Indians upon some of the prisoners is too dreadful to relate.

It is claimed by all the writers of history and fiction, who have described the events occurring at Fort Stanwix during the War of the Revolution that the Stars and Stripes were first unfurled in battle on this historic ground. The residents of several other localities have claimed the same for their respective locations, but it seems to be satisfactorily established that the honor of this important event is justly due to Fort Stanwix.

Governor Seymour, who was most cautious in his statement of facts, and who gave much time to the investigation of this subject, in his address August 6, 1877, at the Centennial celebration of the Battle of Oriskany said: "It is a just source of patriotic pride to those who live in this valley that the flag of our country (with the stars and stripes) was first displayed in the face of our enemies on the banks of the Mohawk. Here it was baptized in the blood of battle. Here it first waved in triumph over a retreating foe. When the heroic defenders of Fort Stanwix learned in that remote fortress the emblems adopted by the Continental Congress for the standards to be borne by its armies, they hastened to make one in accordance with the mandate and to hang it out from the walls of their fortress. It was rudely made of such materials cut from the clothing of the soldiers as were fitted to show its colors and its design. But no other standard, however skilfully wrought upon silken folds, could equal in interest this flag of our country worked out by the unskilled hands of brave men, amid the strife of war and under the fire of beleaguering foes. It was to rescue it from its peril that the men of this valley left their homes, and marched through the deep forest to this spot."

No great events connected with the Revolutionary war occurred within Oneida county after the summer of 1777. After the battle of Johnstown the British and Tories retreated toward Canada. There is much uncertainty as to the course which they took, and the only very important event connected with it is that the famous Walter Butler was killed during this retreat. Historians disagree as to where the skirmish occurred in which Butler was killed, but the weight of authority seems to be that it was on the West Canada creek, a short distance below the forks of the West Canada with Black creek, and within the county of Oneida.

At the close of the Revolutionary war the upper Mohawk valley was absolutely desolate. From authentic history it cannot be learned that any settlement of white people remained. It was actually returned to a wilderness.

## CHAPTER IV

### ORGANIZATION AND GEOGRAPHY

The territory now known as Oneida county was originally part of Albany county, but in 1772 Tryon county was taken off from Albany and comprised all the state westerly of a line extending north and south through Schoharie county. This new county was named after Governor Tryon. In consequence of his unpopularity an act of the legislature was passed April 2, 1784, changing the name of the county to Montgomery, in honor of the American general who fell in the battle of Quebec. On March 7, 1788, an act was passed fixing the boundaries of the county, and on the same day another act was passed fixing the boundaries of the towns within the county of Montgomery. By this latter act Whitestown was described as bounded easterly by a line running north and south to the confines of the state and across the Mohawk river at the ford near and on the east side of the farm house of William Cunningham, and which line was the west boundary of the town of Herkimer, German Flats and Otsego; southerly by the state of Pennsylvania, and west and north by the confines of the state. It will be observed that this town of Whitestown comprised the state of New York westerly from Utica to the bounds of the state, and was nearly one half of its entire territory.

On February 16, 1791, the county of Herkimer was created from Montgomery, and the present county of Oneida and much more territory was included in the new county of Herkimer.

On the 15th day of March, 1798, the county of Oneida was formed from Herkimer. On March 3, 1802, St. Lawrence county was carved out of Oneida, and March 28, 1805, the counties of Jefferson and Lewis were taken off from Oneida. An act was passed March 1, 1816, creating the county of Oswego from Oneida and Onondaga. This was done by taking from Oneida the towns of Constantia, Mexico, New Haven, Redfield, Richmond, Scriba, Volney and Williamstown, and the town of Hannibal from Onondaga county.

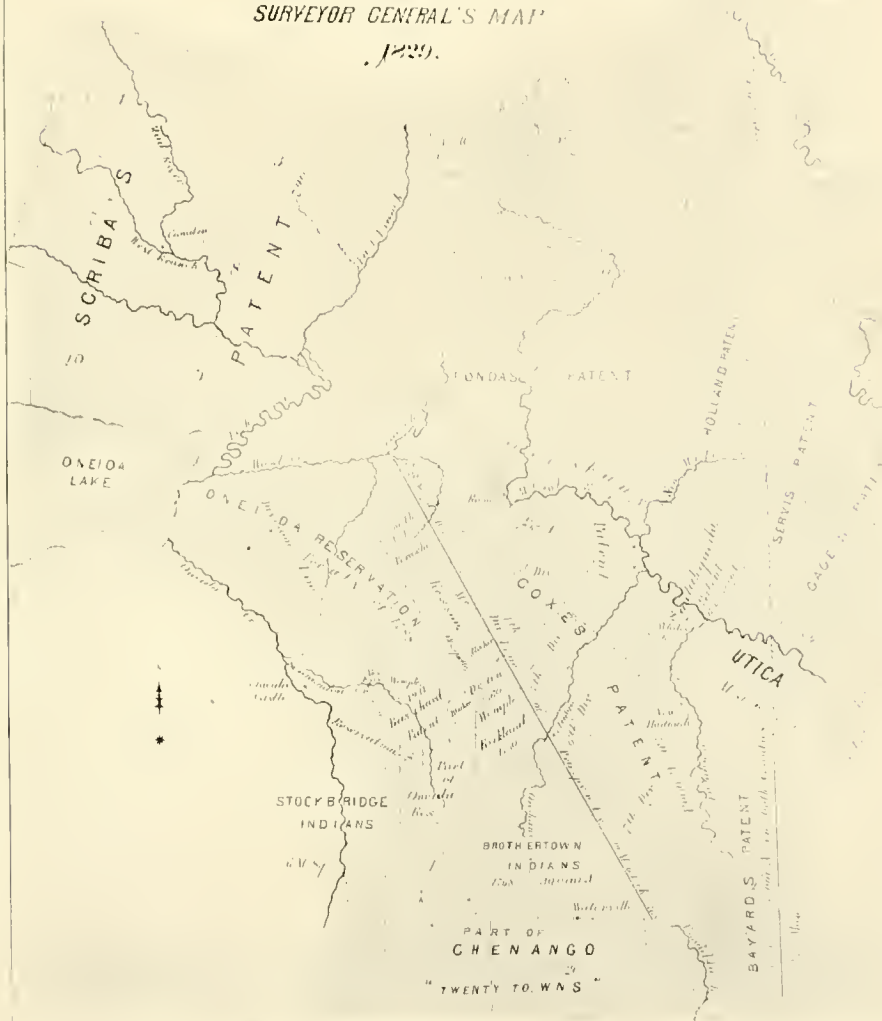
By the last act mentioned the bounds of the county were fixed as they now exist, and this territory is divided into 28 towns, which were created as follows: Annsville was taken from Lee, Florence, Camden and Vienna April 12, 1823; Augusta from Whitestown March 15, 1798; Ava from Boonville May 12, 1846; Boonville from Leyden March 28, 1805; Bridgewater from Sangerfield March 24, 1797; Camden from Mexico March 15, 1799; Deerfield from Schuyler March 15, 1798; Florence from Camden February 16, 1805; Floyd from Steuben March 4, 1796; Forestport from Remsen November 24, 1869; Kirkland from Paris April 13, 1827; Lee from Western April 3, 1811; Marcy from Deerfield March 30, 1832; Marshall from Kirkland February 21, 1829; New Hartford

# ONEIDA COUNTY

SHOWING  
ORIGINAL PATENTS GRANTS  
1804

SURVEYOR GENERAL'S MAP

1829.





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from Whitestown April 12, 1827; Paris from Whitestown April 10, 1792; Remsen from Norway March 15, 1798; Rome from Stenben March 6, 1796; Sangerfield from Paris March 5, 1795; Stenben from Whitestown April 10, 1792; Trenton from Schuyler March 24, 1797; Utica from Whitestown April 7, 1817; Vernon from Westmoreland and Augusta February 17, 1802; Verona from Westmoreland and Augusta February 17, 1802; Vienna was first called Orange, then Bengal, but in 1816 the name was changed to Vienna; Western from Stenben March 10, 1797.

The county consists of 1,215 square miles, and is bounded on the east by Herkimer county; on the south by Madison and Otsego counties; on the west by Madison and Oswego counties, and on the north by Oswego and Lewis counties. Through the county from the town of Western, first southerly then easterly to the Herkimer county line, flows the Mohawk river. Westerly and northerly of Rome the water flows mostly through Fish creek and Mad river to Oneida lake, from the southwest the waters flow quite largely to Oneida creek and into Oneida lake; from the southern part the drainage is to and through the Unadilla river to the Susquehanna; from the northern portion of the county the water finds its way chiefly through Black river into Lake Ontario; and from the northeasterly portion through the West Canada creek to the Mohawk river at Herkimer, and on through the Hudson into New York bay.

The Mohawk valley is one of the most picturesque and fertile valleys in the world. Its products are so numerous that it would be much easier to enumerate the few articles it does not produce, than the many which it does. What better could be said of any country than can be said of this—that except the products of a tropical or semi-tropical climate, there is produced along the Mohawk everything that is necessary to support life or desirable for the health and comfort of humanity. Northward of the valley the land is more rugged, the soil lighter, and the climate more severe than in the valley; the hills rise to an altitude of about 1,800 feet above tide water. In the southern part the country is less broken, the climate somewhat milder than north of the Mohawk valley, although the altitude of some of the hills is about the same as in the northern part of the county.

## CHAPTER V

### GEOLOGY

The geology of Oneida county is controlled by the position of the county on the southwest corner of the mass of ancient rocks that form the Adirondack plateau. This Adirondack mass is but a small southern extension of the vast shield of Precambrie rocks in Canada that has formed the nucleus of the continent of North America. The Adirondack plateau was at times a peninsula and at other times an island in front of this old northern nucleus (so-called protaxis) of the continent, and the sea in the course of the geologic history of the country advanced and receded many times on the flanks of this highland. We find, therefore, still today the great series of rocks that has been deposited in these seas outcropping in concentric bands around the edges of the Adirondacks and therefore crossing (or "striking" as the geologist says) through Oneida county in a NW—SE direction.

After the sea had finally withdrawn, a river system was developed on the continent. As the Adirondack plateau continued to form the mountain area of the region, all the courses of the rivers were controlled by its position in the northeast and by the bands of rock around it, and as in the final stage of our geologic history the county was buried under the immense masses of ice advancing from northern Canada, the Adirondacks again formed a diverting corner stone for the ice-streams composing the ice-cap.

The Adirondack area of Precambrie rocks extends into the northeast corner of Oneida county. Its boundary runs there from West Canada creek above Hinckley to the Forestport reservoir and thence follows the Black river. The Precambrie rocks—so-called because they are older than the oldest fossiliferous system, the Cambrie—consist mostly of gneiss, a distinctly banded rock composed of the mineral, quartz, feldspar and mica, but also containing graphite and garnet. It is best seen in the county along the Black river below the hamlet Enos, and where the road crosses Little Black creek. The gneiss has for a long time been considered as representing the oldest or fundamental rocks of the earth's crust, but we know now still older rocks and have learned that the gneiss was once common sandstone and shale deposited in the first ocean of the earth, but then became buried under thousands of feet of later sediments and younger rocks, and by the heat and pressure in the depths of the earth it has become metamorphosed into its present condition. One calls the group of rocks to which this gneiss belongs today the Grenville rocks. To the same group belong also the great masses of igneous rocks, that have eaten or melted their way everywhere from below into and through the Grenville gneiss while it was deeply buried under younger sediments. These igneous rocks are best

seen in the country about Forestport Station, on the Adirondack railroad at Woodhull and Meekerville. They are known as yenite and composed largely of feldspar, quartz and hornblende. On account of the latter constituent this rock is much darker than the gneiss, and being igneous, it is also not so distinctly banded. While the fresh rock is deep greenish-gray, it appears mostly light brown through deep weathering.

The whole area of these most ancient rocks of the county, the gneiss and yenite, has the true character of the north woods, partly on account of the lack of soil, the infertility of the soil these rocks furnish, and especially on account of the boulder masses which make farming unprofitable.

The Precambrie or Adirondack area has been many times covered, to a greater or less extent, by seas that advanced from the south and southwest, and deep masses of sandstones, limestones and shales were deposited on the gneisses and yenites. All of these have been partly eroded away by the rivers in the millions of years that have elapsed since the final withdrawal of the sea. But not only this, but since the Precambrie area was uncovered it has been raised several times to greater heights than it is at present, and again leveled down by the atmospheric agents.

The rocks that rest upon the so-called Metamorphic or Precambrie rocks are called the Sedimentary rocks, because they were all deposited in the water, mostly in the ocean, and still contain the remains of marine animals, the fossils, as proof of their origin. Between their deposition and the formation of the gneisses an immense interval of time elapsed, of which we have record in other parts of the world.

During this long time the Adirondacks were folded up into mountain, and the mountain folds again razed down to a plateau by the rivers and brooks, and upon this plateau advanced the sea. The first band of sediments that surround the edge of the North Woods in Oneida county is the Trenton limestone. This would, hence, seem to represent the oldest sea that crept up upon the Adirondack plateau. If we follow, however, West Canada creek from the edge of the woods as far down as Cold Brook and Poland, we find there in the easternmost point of the county a still older rock exposed by the river and underlying the Trenton limestone. This is a dolomite (Little Falls dolomite) with an overlying limestone (Tribes Hill limestone), the two forming the "Calcareous sandstone" of the older geologists. This older sea, the "Beekmantown sea," that has deposited about 400 feet of rock about Little Falls, did in Oneida county either not reach as high up on the Adirondacks as the later Trenton sea, or its deposits have been abraded again in the long interval before the Trenton sea advanced again. The Trenton sea was warm and genial, it spread over the greater part of North America and left a great quantity of shells of many classes of animals in the rocks. These fossils have made famous the Trenton Falls locality, whence the formation derives its name. The Trenton sea left about 300 feet of more or less pure limestone in Oneida county, over which the West Canada creek forms its famous falls.

On this limestone rests a shale formation about 700 feet thick, that in geology is known as the Utica shale. This shale is soft, and since rivers usually pick out the bands of rock where they can most easily work out their river beds,



it is in this band that the Mohawk river flows through Oneida county. The deep black shale is best seen in the hills about Utica, as along Starch Factory creek, or Nine Mile creek. It was deposited in an arm of the sea that came in from the Lower St. Lawrence region, passed over most of the Adirondacks, and returned to the Atlantic by a northern arm around Labrador. The fossils of this shale are peculiar, the most remarkable being graptolites, beautiful small floating coral-like colonies. Many fine fossils of the Utica shale have been collected about Marey, Floyd, and especially Holland Patent and South Trenton. Like most of the Trenton fossils, these Utica fossils have been described by Prof. James Hall, and later by C. D. Walcott.

Upon the Utica shale follows another shale about 300 feet thick, the Frankfort shale, which is also exposed in the hills south of Utica. It is a soft olive-gray shale, with very coarse sandstone beds, but practically without fossils in this region.

The Frankfort sea withdrew westward, and Oneida county remained land for some time, when the sea again advanced. This laid down a bed of conglomerate, the Oneida conglomerate. This pebbly rock, which is about 25 feet thick, has received its name from Oneida county because of its fine exposures in the neighborhood of Verona. It marks the beginning of a new geologic era, the Upper Silurie, while the underlying sedimentary formations belong to the Lower Silurie. No fossils are found in this coarse rock, which was made by the stormy sea advancing upon the country.

As the sea grew deeper a formation of about 150 feet of red and green shales, limestone bands and sandstones at the top was deposited. This formation again received its name from a locality in Oneida county, its name being the Clinton formation. It contains the two valuable iron ore beds that are mined about Clinton. The Clinton formation is full of many beautiful marine fossils, that can be easily collected on the mine dumps of Clinton. The best section of this formation in the county is probably found along Swift creek, that runs into Sauquoit creek.

The great Niagara formation, which has caused the Niagara Falls, is represented in Oneida county by only about 25 feet of dark concretionary limestone and interbedded shales. These few feet of limestone are, however, the relics of a period in which the sea, as in Trenton time, spread far and wide over the American continent. It then shrunk rapidly in the region of New York and formed a more or less inclosed sea, and, as the country was then a hot desert, this sea evaporated, forming the salt and gypsum beds of the Salina period in western New York.

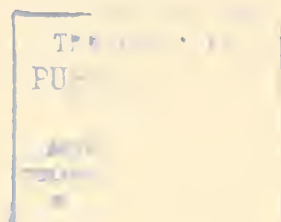
In Oneida county the Salina period is represented by a great mass of red shales about 150 feet thick, followed by dark dirty colored shales, and finally by waterlime, all together more than 300 feet. One sees this belt of rocks best in the Sauquoit valley between Clayville and Sauquoit, in the Oriskany valley below Oriskany Falls, and about Vernon, where the red shales color the fields. This red shale has been called the "Vernon shale" from the latter locality. The waterlimes which form the top of the formation alone contain fossils. These, however, are of the most remarkable kind. They belong to a class of extinct water-spiders, so-called Eurypterids, many of which were of gigantic



TRENTON GORGE NEAR THE FOOT OF PERKIN'S STAIRWAY



TRENTON FALLS





proportions. These strange fossils are found in Oneida county about Paris Hill. Oneida county has also furnished from this formation the only Silurian scorpion ever found in North America. It was obtained 30 years ago by Mr. Osborn of Waterville, and caused a sensation among paleontologists.

After the deposition of these waterlimes normal marine conditions returned in the sea opening the Devonian era with a series of fossiliferous limestones about 40 feet thick, which form the terrace or so-called Helderberg escarpment in the southern part of the county on Paris Hill and Prospect Hill. After the deposition of this limestone the country hereabouts emerged again for a considerable time from the sea, and then again became submerged, hence the next rock is again a coarse sediment or pebbly rock, the Oriskany sandstone, so well seen at Oriskany Falls.

Again a warm, congenial sea extended far and wide over the land, with coral reefs and abundant life of every form, even early fishes. This sea formed the Onondaga limestone, the thickest bed of limestone in the county aside from the Trenton limestone. This bed (about 60 feet thick) forms a distinct platform that crosses the county from east to west, and upon it rest the immense masses of dark shales known as Hamilton shales. These a thousand or more feet thick, extend clear across the state to the Hudson; they belong to a middle Devonian sea, that crossed the continent to the Pacific and Arctic oceans. They are very fossiliferous, and extend far beyond the southern boundary of the county. It is very probable that also the sea of the next following period, the Chemung, still extended northward over Oneida county, but its deposits have long since been eroded away.

After that time the county was never again submerged under the sea, and it was terra firma throughout the immense time intervals in which the coals were deposited in Pennsylvania, during the Mesozoic or mediæval age of the earth, when the dragon-like reptiles roamed over the continent, and again through the tertiary period, when the great mammals lived on this land.

Of all this time we have no record in this region. We only know that the Adirondacks were then repeatedly elevated and again planed down, a river system developed, of which we still recognize some features, and the greater part of the rocks which once reached up on the Adirondack plateau were again carried away to the sea.

But finally, just before our present period, enormous masses of ice moved south from Canada. One ice current came down the west side of the Adirondacks, another up the Mohawk valley, and finally, at the height of glaciation, the ice passed clear over the Adirondacks and reached as far south as Pennsylvania. This ice-cap ploughed up the softer rocks, such as the Utica shales, plucked up the harder rocks of the Adirondacks and Canada and spread them as boulders over the county, while it formed under the ice along water-courses and in its front, as it again receded across the county, enormous piles of unstratified clay with boulders, so-called morainic till, or of sand and boulders, thus forming the hilly landscapes one sees, for instance, in the Oneida valley.

Finally the ice withdrew again, leaving a mantle of glacial drift all over the country. A new river system established itself, which is still very young, since the old courses are filled and hidden by the glacial debris. To this cir-

cumstance we owe the beautiful cascades and waterfalls, Trenton Falls and Oriskany Falls.

Before the glacial period the drainage of Oneida county ran northwestward towards Lake Erie, hence the deep drift buried valley under the present Mohawk river that has been recognized by well-borings.

For a considerable time, while the ice-barrier still lingered at the north side of Lake Erie, that lake or its predecessor, called "Lake Iroquois" by the geologists, was dammed up so that it reached beyond Oneida lake as far as Rome, and the waters of the St. Lawrence river were forced to come down the present Mohawk valley. It was this mighty ice-cold stream that opened the way at Little Falls, and so forth, for the present Mohawk river.

Oneida county is a crucial area in the geology of New York. This is shown by the great number of formations named after localities in the county, by the important sections it has furnished, as that at Trenton Falls, and not least by the active interest of some of its citizens in the geology of the state, as evidenced by the names of Bagg, Rust, Hurlburt, Whitfield, Dana, Williams and Walcott.

The use of stone for building purposes and for the construction of highways vastly increased between 1907 and 1911. No large industries in the line of producing stone prior to 1910 existed in the county, but the construction of a railroad was begun in 1910 to connect the very large stone quarries at Prospect, in the town of Trenton, with the Mohawk & Malone railroad near that village; the road was completed in 1911, and machinery has been installed for the production of about 500 tons of stone per day. This Trenton limestone has been proved to be as good, if not better than any other stone, for the purpose of surfacing the state roads which are now being constructed throughout the entire state, and, where it is feasible to procure the stone, it is used extensively for that purpose. It is also much used for other building purposes, and, although the quarries have been substantially idle for many years, the construction of the railroad has enabled the owners to transport the stone at so much less cost, that it can be placed in any part of central New York as cheaply as any other stone of the same grade. The quarries are very extensive. The West Canada creek flows through a ravine from fifty to one hundred feet perpendicular for miles, and the stone extends for a long distance on both sides of this ravine to a great depth, making the supply substantially inexhaustible.



## CHAPTER VI

### MINERALOGY

In 1908 Honorable Andrew S. Draper, Commissioner of Agriculture, made a report to the legislature upon the subject of iron in the state of New York. In this report he said: "This is the report of the state geologist covering a painstaking investigation of the extent of deposits of iron ore in the state, and having particular reference to the territory, something like one hundred miles in length, extending through the central part of the state from Oneida and Otsego counties on the east to Wayne county on the west, for which a special appropriation was provided in the annual supply bill of 1907. Having very earnestly recommended the appropriation, I find much satisfaction in the assurance of the geologist that a conservative estimate, based upon this investigation, of the quantity of iron ore deposited in this region, places the amount at 600,000,000 tons. If this estimate is warranted, New York might yet easily become the leading iron state of the union."

Accompanying the report is a map showing, in red, the lay of the iron ore referred to. This map shows that Oneida county may become the very center of this tremendous iron industry. It is claimed by practical men engaged in the iron industry that the ore can be mined cheaper through Oneida county than elsewhere in the state. The mining industries about Clinton, in the town of Kirkland, started in 1797. The Norton mine, at the foot of College Hill west of Clinton, is the site of some of the earliest operations, and supplied ore to the forges in the vicinity.

The report of the geologist further says that charcoal furnaces soon superseded the forges, and were operated until the erection of the larger furnaces using anthracite coal. The charcoal plants were located as far away as Taberg and Constantia, and they were also at Lenox, Walesville and Frankfort, in Herkimer county. Ore was also shipped by Chenango canal to Pennsylvania furnaces. In 1845 to 1850 the Scranton Iron Company engaged in this business on an extensive scale, and shipped ore from New Hartford and Clinton by boats to Binghamton, and then to Scranton.

In 1852 the Franklin Iron Works erected a plant on the site of the present furnaces of the Franklin Iron Manufacturing Company, and began operations, with an output of 150 tons of pig iron a week. An additional furnace was built in 1869-70, and the product then was 300 tons per week.

The Clinton Iron Company was organized in 1872 to manufacture iron at Kirkland. The furnace was operated in 1872, the ore being brought from Westmoreland. This furnace has not been operated for about twenty years, while the Franklin furnace has been operated from time to time, depending upon the condition of the iron market.

Besides the ore that was used in the county it has been shipped to other localities, and at the present time a considerable business is done by Mr. C. A. Borst. Mr. Borst has not only operated the furnace at times and mined and shipped away ore, but has purchased a large amount of the iron territory about Clinton, believing that a great future is promised to the iron industry in that locality. This ore is of a low grade, and is used largely at the present time to assist in the melting of harder ores.

It is claimed that peat at times has been mined and used in the county of Oneida, but I find no authentic data upon that subject.

## CHAPTER VII

### BOTANY

Oneida county, with the exception of the northern part, is included in Dr. John Torrey's third botanical district of New York. The northern part belongs to his fourth district, which comprises all the northern part of the state. The third district comprises the whole western part of the state, and the central part extending east along the Mohawk valley to Little Falls. The county is divided by the Mohawk valley into two parts, the northern and southern. The differences in altitude, and, far more, the differences in the geological and soil character give foundation for a varied flora and a great number of species of plants. In Paine's Catalog of the Plants of Oneida County and Vicinity about a thousand species are recorded for the county. That was published more than 40 years ago. At the present time the number of known species is, unquestionably, considerably larger. The number of species found in a given locality affords a basis for estimating the capacity of the soil for producing a variety of useful plants. If the natural product is varied, the cultivated may be. Plants that would thrive in the fertile alluvial and sheltered valleys would not be likely to be as productive in the less fertile more exposed and rugged hilly districts.

Among the early botanists of the county are some whose names stand high on the roll of honor. Dr. P. D. Knieskern, Dr. George Vasey and Professor Asa Gray are specially notable examples. They have been succeeded by such worthy and energetic followers as John A. Paine, Jr., B. D. Gilbert, Homer D. House and Dr. J. V. Haberer.

Dr. P. D. Knieskern, for a time a resident of Oriskany, is the author of a Catalog of Plants of Oneida County, native and naturalized. This was published in the fifty-fifth annual report of the regents of the university for 1842, and records 748 species and varieties of plants, of which 711 are flowering plants, 37 are ferns and their allies.

John A. Paine, Jr., at that time a resident of Utica, is the author of a Catalog of Plants of Oneida County and Vicinity. It was published in the eighteenth annual report of the regents of the university on the condition of the state cabinet of natural history. It is dated 1865, and records 1,008 species and varieties of plants belonging to Oneida county. Of these 958 are flowering plants and 50 are ferns and their allies.

Mr. B. D. Gilbert, a late resident of Clayville and a specialist in the study of ferns, published in Fern Bulletin, October, 1903, a list of the ferns and fern allies of New York. He also specified a small swampy station near Clayville as one specially prolific in rare and interesting mosses.

Mr. Homer D. House has published in Torreyia, April, 1903, Notes on the

Orchids of Central New York, in which he records the occurrence of several rare and interesting species in Oneida county. Also in the November issue of the same, Notes on the Flora of Oneida Lake and Vicinity, in which some rare and interesting species of Oneida county plants are mentioned.

Dr. J. V. Haberer, formerly of Utica, is among the most recent and most active of the investigators of the flora of the county. He has added much to our previous knowledge of the flora, and increased materially the number of species now known to belong to the county. He has taken an active interest in the study of the Crataegus flora of the county, and *Crataegus habereri* Sarg., very appropriately commemorates his discovery of it and his activity in this line of botanical investigation. Dr. Haberer has greatly enriched the state herbarium by his generous contributions of most excellent specimens of several species of Antennaria, of sedges and other plants and especially of grape ferns, and the numerous and rare varieties of *Botrychium obliquum* Muhl., one of which bears the name *oneidense*, its native county, and another *habereri*, its discoverer. All these were collected in the vicinity of or not many miles from Utica. All botanists are specially indebted to him for his notes on Plants of Oneida County in May and June numbers of Rhodora, 1905. In these he adds 35 species to those contained in Paine's catalog, and shows very clearly the close relation existing between the plants of the northeastern part of Oneida county and the Adirondack region farther north.

While the great majority of the species of plants of the county are common to it and adjoining counties, and occur in all parts of it, certain parts of the county are worthy of special mention because of the special prominence and abundance of certain species, or, on the other hand, because of the very rare occurrence or local character of some species found in them. The alluvial banks of the Mohawk river, the pine plains west of Rome, the sandy borders of the eastern end of Oneida lake and the adjoining marshes, the high cliffs and ravines along Fish creek above Taberg, and the marshes and ponds in the northeastern part of the county are all places full of interest to the botanist. The small remnant of original forest at Trenton Falls is also an interesting though limited locality, especially for the mycologist.

Several varieties of the dotted fruit thorn tree, *Crataegus punctata* Jacq., occur along the banks of the Mohawk near Utica. The fruit of different trees varies so greatly in size, shape and color, that it is very unsatisfactory to a close observer to lump them all together under one name. This thorn tree is also abundant along the railroad between Remsen and Boonville. In the town of New Hartford the English hawthorn, *Crataegus oxyacantha* L., an introduced species, is quite plentiful. This locality is also the home of the Haberer thorn and several other species.

The creeping buttercup, *Ranunculus repens* L., was discovered near the Erie canal between Rome and Oriskany by Professor Amos Eaton in 1824. In 1884 the writer, following the canal eastward from Rome, found this plant, probably in the same station, still growing "near the Erie canal." It may be there yet. If so, it would show a wonderful case of pertinacity.

The rare plant, early collinsia or blue-eyed Mary, *Collinsia verna* Nutt., is reported to have been found by Dr. Knieskern and Professor Gray near Utica many years ago. It is doubtful if it still exists there.



The region designated as Pine Plains lies west of Rome and between it and the eastern end of Oneida lake. It is similar to other sandy areas, with intermingled bogs or marshes, and has a similar flora to that of the sand plains between Albany and Schenectady. An occasional white pine and red pine still linger, and indicate the probable presence of a better supply of these trees in former times. Such land is not regarded as having much value for agricultural purposes. It would be better to devote it to tree production. The following partial list of plants found there will sufficiently indicate the character of the flora:

- White birch—*Betula populifolia* Marsh.
- Prairie willow—*Salix humilis* Marsh.
- Black scrub oak—*Quercus ilicifolia* Wang.
- Sweet fern—*Myrica asplenifolia* L.
- Twayblade—*Listera cordata* (L.) R. Br.
- Hooker orchis—*Habenaria hookeri* Torr.
- Northern clintonia—*Clintonia borealis* (Ait.) Raf.
- Three leaved false Solomon's seal—*Smilacina trifolia* (L.) Desf.
- Hare's tail—*Eriophorum callitrix* Cham.
- Slender cotton grass—*E. gracile* Roth.
- Virginian bartonia—*Bartonia virginica* (L.) BSP.
- Butterfly weed—*Asclepias tuberosa* L.
- Upright bindweed—*Convolvulus spithameus* L.

The rare ram's head lady's slipper, *Cypripedium arietinum* R. Br., was formerly credited to this locality, but has not recently been found there, and has probably become extinct.

The region around the eastern end of Oneida lake is a peculiar one, and is notable botanically for being a station of the white mullein, *Verbascum lychnidis* L., an introduced plant which has been established there for many years, but which does not appear to spread to other places. It was published in Dr. Knieskern's catalog in 1842, and it still exists there. With a single exception it does not appear to be listed in the local catalogs of the state as occurring elsewhere, and I have seen it in no other place. A hybrid between it and the common mullein is found growing with it. Some interesting orchids and sedges have been credited to this locality. Mr. Homer D. House reports having found the yellow fringed orchis, *Habenaria ciliaris* (L.) R. Br., in the woods east of Sylvan Beach. This is a rare species, and is in danger of extinction in Oneida county. Dr. J. V. Haberer finds the two stamen spike rush, *Eleocharis diandra* Wright, well developed and abundant in the sand of the lake shore here. The interesting thing about this plant is its close relationship to the ovoid spike rush, *Eleocharis ovata* (Roth) R. & S., by reason of which it appears to have been long confused with the latter species. Other interesting species here are the beach pea, *Lathyrus maritimus* (L.) Bigel., a plant usually found growing on the seashore; the slender rush, *Juncus filiformis* L., a species common farther north; the Massachusetts fern, *Aspidium simulatum* Davenp., a species ranging farther eastward; and the sandy soil violet, *Viola arenaria* DC., a species ranging northward.

The high shaded and dripping cliffs that skirt the east branch of Fish creek above Taberg are exquisitely decorated in June by the presence of two charming little plants which here find a congenial home near the most southern limit of their range. They are the yellow mountain saxifrage, *Saxifraga aizoides* L., and the Mistassini or dwarf Canadian primrose, *Primula mistassinica* Mx. Both were recorded in Paine's catalog, and of the last one it very properly says, "A whole cliff side scattered over with these variegated primroses is one of the loveliest sights in all our flora." Both plants extend far to the northward. The primrose takes its name from Lake Mistassini, one of its northern stations. This is also credited to a deep ravine at the head of Crooked lake, Steuben county, and the yellow mountain saxifrage has also been found near Ithaca. But both uniting in the Fish creek locality give it a botanical prestige which is probably unique in this country.

The comparatively recent explorations of Dr. J. V. Haberer in Forestport, the northeastern town of Oneida county, have disclosed some interesting plants, and shown this to be a rich botanical field and one well worthy of further exploration. Here plants from farther south meet with plants from farther north, and it might not at once be easy to say whether the prevailing relationship is with the northern or southern flora. In the case of the water wort, *Elatine americana* (Pursh) Arn., this appears to be the first discovery of it in Oneida county, notwithstanding the number of keen eyed botanists that have studied its flora. This is all the more remarkable because of the abundance of the plants in White lake. *Drosera rotundifolia* L. var. *comosa* Fern., is another variety to enrich the flora of Oneida county by its occurrence here. It grows in company with two yellow eyed star grasses, *Xyris caroliniana* Walt., and *Xyris montana* Ries, both rare species, but both of which, by their larger size, more showy flowers and great abundance attract the attention of the botanist more readily. His discovery of *Corallorrhiza multiflora flavida* Pk., is another notable addition to the Oneida county orchids, which now number, according to Dr. Haberer, 40 known species. This is all the more worthy of notice, because recently the name *Corallorrhiza maculata* Raf., has been substituted for the name *C. multiflora* Nutt, formerly in use for the typical form. The varietal form has no spots on the lip, and in this respect is strongly in contrast with the typical form.

The discovery of the short spiked club moss, *Lycopodium clavatum brevispicatum* Pk., on the rocky slopes near White lake adds another to the single station hitherto known for this peculiar variety of club moss, and another variety to the Oneida county flora.

The lance leaved violet, *Viola lanceolata* L.; the round leaved winterberry, *Ilex verticillata cyclophylla* Robins; the large leaved golden rod, *Solidago macrophylla* Pursh; the dwarf mistletoe, *Arceuthobium pusillum* Pk.; the brown beak rush, *Rynchospora fusca* (L.) Ait.; and the cluster fruited beak rush, *Rynchospora glomerata* (L.) Vahl, are some of the other notable additions to the flora of this part of Oneida county recently made by Dr. Haberer.

The flora of a county is by no means a permanent thing. Certain plants quickly yield to unfavorable changes in environment, others give way to the demands of agricultural progress, still others yield to the more hardy and aggres-

sive species introduced from abroad. Two species of hawkweed, the orange hawkweed, *Hieracium aurantiacum* L., and the king devil, *Hieracium florentinum* All., are both comparatively recent introductions and were not known to the earlier botanists of the county. Both are pestilent weeds, and thrive well in the hilly northern part of the county and are active in crowding out other less vigorous weeds and also many useful plants.

## CHAPTER VIII

### FORESTRY

For many years in the early history of the county the inhabitants, it would seem, made special effort to denude the lands of wood and valuable timber, by the countless thousands of cords burned in log heaps to clear the land for cultivation. This was usually done with very little judgment. The tops and sides of hills, where soil was very light, were denuded of timber, and by this means many streams and springs were dried. The hills were frequently too steep for cultivation, and many of them furnished poor pasturage. It would have been immeasurably wiser to have left the summits of the hills covered with woods, so that the moisture would have been retained, and been distributed gradually in the dry season down the sides of the hills into the valleys, and in this manner kept springs and streams alive.

A revolution has been wrought in the public mind in regard to forestry within the last ten years. Whereas at one time it was to destroy the trees, now the inclination is to reforest the country, and this is a very sane state of the public mind.

Within the last three years trees have been procured of the state of New York and transplanted in Oneida county to a considerable extent, and, as an incentive to others to do the same, the list of names with the number of trees set out by each is here given:

1909

Hon. Elihu Root, Clinton .....	31,000
J. S. Baker, Rome .....	4,000
John Bliven, Bridgewater .....	1,000
J. J. Russell, White Lake Corners.....	2,000
Q. McAdam, Utica .....	2,400
T. W. Parkinson, Bridgewater .....	2,000
H. H. Wicks, Utica-Sauquoit.....	1,000
C. E. Witcher, Utica .....	500
A. A. Heckert, Sangerfield .....	1,000
Dr. C. T. Guillane, Boonville .....	2,000
H. J. Cookinham, Utica .....	3,000
J. T. Durham, Oneida .....	300
A. D. H. Kelsey, Westdale .....	500
H. F. Simmons, Sauquoit.....	500

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51,200



## 1910

A. R. Eastman, Waterville .....	2,500
A. D. H. Kelsey, Westdale .....	1,000
City Water Board, Waterville .....	25,000
Jos. J. Russell, White Lake Corners.....	2,500
LeRoy J. Davis, Remsen .....	500
Samuel T. Russell, Ilion-White Lake Corners.....	1,500
H. J. Cookinham, Utica .....	6,500
Wm. S. Wicks, Barneveld .....	500
Wm. Stell, White Lake Corners.....	1,000
Hon. Elihu Root, Clinton .....	8,500
Dr. C. T. Guillane, Boonville.....	1,300
Harvey H. Wicks, Utica-Sanquoit .....	1,000
Melville J. Oley, White Lake .....	3,000
A. Heckert, Waterville .....	1,000
S. H. Allston, White Lake Corners.....	1,500
Mrs. Morris S. Miller, Boonville.....	3,000
J. DeP. Lynch, Remsen.....	5,500
Nicholas E. Devereux, Whitesboro.....	6,000
Mary L. Culver, White Lake Corners.....	5,500
Marklove Lowery, Utica .....	52,000
William Townsend, Utica .....	1,500

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 130,800

## 1911

Walter D. Edmonds, Boonville.....	3,000
H. J. Cookinham, Utica .....	5,000
J. G. Kilbourne, Utica .....	2,000
A. D. H. Kelsey, Westdale .....	500
Nicholas E. Devereux, Whitesboro.....	4,000
T. B. Dallarmi, White Lake Corners.....	2,000
Francis K. Kernan, Forestport.....	17,000
William Townsend, Utica.....	2,000
F. H. Cookinham, Utica-Barneveld .....	1,500
E. C. Smith, White Lake .....	1,000
William Stell, White Lake Corners.....	1,000
Oneida Community Ltd., Oneida.....	8,000
Harvey H. Wicks, Utica-Sanquoit.....	2,000
Melville J. Oley, White Lake.....	2,000
A. A. Heckert, Sangerfield .....	300
Edith M. Chargo, Verona .....	300
M. E. Hastings, Forestport .....	200
Fred E. W. Wagner, Rome .....	500
Edmund W. Stradling, Utica .....	500
Joseph J. Russell, White Lake Corners.....	3,000
S. F. Russell, Ilion-White Lake Corners .....	3,000

S. H. Allston, White Lake Corners.....	1,100
S. G. Thomas, Cassville .....	1,000
Board Water Commissioners, Waterville.....	4,000
John M. Gaus, Utica .....	2,500
Charles E. Hooper, Rome .....	2,000
J. J. Wheeler, Boonville .....	500
William S. Wicks, Barneveld .....	1,000
James A. Beha, Boonville.....	2,500
Benjamin Hall, Utica-Salisbury Center.....	1,000
Chas. B. Gibson, Whitesboro .....	1,000
Hon. E. F. Kinkead, Forestport.....	6,000
	<hr/>
	81,400

The principal reason why the quantity shipped to Oneida county in 1911 is less than in 1910 is because of the fact that it was necessary to reduce the quantity of the orders which the applicants made, as the supply was not sufficient to fill the orders in full.

It will undoubtedly be of interest to the public to know just what trees are indigenous to the county of Oneida, and they are as follows:

#### HARD WOODS

<i>Scientific Name.</i>	<i>Common Name.</i>
<i>Acer saccharum</i> .....	Sugar (or hard) maple
<i>Acer saccharinum</i> .....	Silver maple
<i>Acer rubrum</i> .....	Red maple
<i>Acer negundo</i> .....	Box elder or ash-leaf maple
<i>Fagus atropunicea</i> .....	Beech
<i>Salix nigra</i> .....	Black willow
<i>Salix amygdaloides</i> .....	Peach-leaf willow
<i>Fraxinus americana</i> .....	White ash
<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanico</i> .....	Red ash
<i>Fraxinus lanceolata</i> .....	Green ash
<i>Fraxinus nigra</i> .....	Black ash
<i>Ulmus pubescens</i> .....	Slippery (or Red) elm
<i>Ulmus americana</i> .....	White elm
<i>Ulmus racemosa</i> .....	Cork (or Rock) elm
<i>Platanus occidentalis</i> .....	Sycamore
<i>Betula lutea</i> .....	Yellow birch
<i>Betula populifolia</i> .....	White birch
<i>Betula papyrifera</i> .....	Paper (or Canoe) birch
<i>Betula lenta</i> .....	Sweet (cherry or black) birch
<i>Prunus serotina</i> .....	Black cherry
<i>Hicoria ovata</i> ( <i>carya alba</i> ) .....	Shag-bark hickory
<i>Hicoria glabra</i> ( <i>carya porcina</i> ) .....	Pignut hickory
<i>Hicoria minima</i> ( <i>carya amara</i> ) .....	Bitternut hickory



THE MAKING OF CHARCOAL AT AN EARLY DATE IN THE TOWN OF BOONVILLE





<i>Hicoria alba</i> ( <i>carya tomentosa</i> )	Mockernut hickory
<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	Butternut
<i>Juglaus nigra</i>	Black walnut
<i>Castanea dentata</i>	Chestnut
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood
<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	Tulip poplar
<i>Quercus alba</i>	White oak
<i>Quercus coccinea</i>	Scarlet oak
<i>Quercus acuminata</i>	Chinquapin oak
<i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red oak
<i>Quercus velutina</i>	Yellow (or black) oak
<i>Quercus platanooides</i>	Swamp white oak
<i>Quercus prinus</i>	Chestnut (or rock) oak
<i>Quercus macrocarpa</i>	Burr oak
<i>Populus tremuloides</i>	(Trembling) Aspen
<i>Populus deltoides</i>	(Common) cottonwood
<i>Populus grandidentata</i>	Large toothed aspen
<i>Populus balsamifera</i>	Balm of Gilead
<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	Black gum
<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Hackberry

## CONIFERS

<i>Scientific Name.</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	White pine
<i>Pinus rigida</i>	Pitch pine
<i>Pinus divaricata</i>	Jack pine
<i>Pinus resinosa</i>	Red or Norway pine
<i>Picea rubens</i>	Red spruce
<i>Picea mariana</i>	Black spruce
<i>Picea canadensis</i>	White spruce
<i>Abies balsamea</i>	Balsam
<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	Hemlock
<i>Larix laricina</i>	Tamarack or Hackmatack or Larch
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	Arbor Vitae
<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	Red cedar

## UNDERGROWTH

<i>Scientific Name.</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Rhus vernix</i>	Poison sumach
<i>Rhus hirta</i>	Stag-horn sumach
<i>Prunus pennsylvanica</i>	Wild red or pin cherry
<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Choke cherry
<i>Prunus nigra</i>	Wild plum
<i>Pyrus coronaria</i>	Sweet crab
<i>Crataegus punctata</i>	Dotted hawthorn

<i>Crataegus crus-galli</i> .....	Cock-spur thorn
<i>Pyrus americana</i> .....	Mountain ash
<i>Cornus florida</i> .....	Flowering dogwood
<i>Cornus alternifolia</i> .....	Alternate-leaved dogwood
<i>Sassafras officinale</i> .....	Sassafras
<i>Ostrya virginiana</i> .....	Hornbeam
<i>Carpinus caroliniana</i> .....	Blue beech
<i>Juniperus communis</i> .....	Juniper
<i>Salix lucida</i> .....	Glossy-leaf willow
<i>Salix discolor</i> .....	Glaucous willow
<i>Salix fluviatilis</i> .....	Peach leafed willow
<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> .....	Witch hazel
<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> .....	Service berry (or shad bush) (June berry)
<i>Viburnum lentago</i> .....	Sheep berry
<i>Acer spicatum</i> .....	Mountain maple
<i>Acer pennsylvanicum</i> .....	Striped maple or moosewood

## SOME INTRODUCED SPECIES

<i>Scientific Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i> .....	Black locust
<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i> .....	Honey locust
<i>Picea excelsa</i> .....	Norway spruce
<i>Picea parryana</i> .....	Blue spruce
<i>Pinus austriaca</i> .....	Austrian pine
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i> .....	Scotch pine
<i>Acer pseudo-platanus</i> .....	Sycamore maple
<i>Acer platanoides</i> .....	Norway maple

## CHAPTER IX

### ANIMALS—BIRDS—FISH

The inland situation of Oneida county excludes from the list of its animal inhabitants all those which are entirely confined to, or to the vicinity of the sea, but of the remaining animals occurring in New York state a large proportion are inhabitants of this county.

Its central situation in the state, and varied topography, including forest land as well as cleared and cultivated districts, a fair number of lands, ponds and streams, are all favorable to a rich and varied fauna. The county lies, moreover, just on the boundary between two of the regions called *life zones*, into which the continent of North America may be divided on a basis of its land animals and plants. A brief explanation of what these life zones are and of their distribution in New York state will contribute to a better understanding of the fauna of Oneida county. They are regions in which certain assemblages of species of animals and plants are the characteristic and predominating forms of life, though this does not imply that these species do not also occur beyond the limits of the life zone of which they are particularly characteristic. Climate being the chief determining factor in the distribution of land animals and plants, the life zones form on this continent a series from north to south, though the boundaries between them are modified much by the altitude and other factors, the northern zones extending farther southward in mountainous regions, and the southern zones reaching northward in districts whose climate comes under the moderating influence of the sea or large bodies of water.

New York state comprises parts of three or more such life zones, although but two of them need be considered in connection with this review of the zoology of Oneida county. These are the Canadian and the Transition life zones. In the former are included the northern and mountainous parts of the state, especially the Adirondaek wilderness and the higher parts of the Catskills. The region is characterized by heavy coniferous forests, where these have not been destroyed through the agency of man, and since its climate is a little too cold, and the summer too short for many of the commonly cultivated crops and fruits, it has not proved attractive to the farmer, and much of it still remains wild country, though devastated by the lumberman and paper-maker and the fires which follow in their wake.

The more southern of the two, the Transition life zone, in which Oneida county chiefly lies, is characterized by the predominance of deciduous forests, and, at the present time, by large tracts of open and cultivated land. It is the chief agricultural region of the state. Such familiar birds as the Baltimore oriole, yellow warbler, catbird, brown thrasher and wood thrush, when occurring

as breeders, and among mammals the cottontail rabbits and the common brown bat (*Vespertilio fuscus*), are characteristic of this zone in New York state. Yet the position of Oneida county on the northern border of this zone gives its fauna a considerable admixture of forms characteristic of the Canadian life zone. As examples of this, the breeding within the county of such birds as the white-throated sparrow, slate-colored snowbird, winter wren and red-breasted nuthatch may be cited. Undoubtedly this northern element in the fauna was greater in former times, when the country was still densely forested than it is to-day. With the clearing of the coniferous forests, the northern boundary of the Transition life zone has moved northward quite perceptibly.

Passing from these general topics to a review of some of the more important groups of animals, the mammals should receive the first consideration. No exact list, based on actual records of the mammals of the county, has been published, but from what is known of the distribution of animals of this group in the state and from scattered records that have appeared in print, it is probable that between fifty and sixty species or well marked varieties of mammals have been natives of, or more or less regular visitors to, the county within historic times. Of these, a considerable number, including most of the large species, must be removed from the list of its present inhabitants, having been exterminated by man, or having receded to wilder regions with the destruction of the forests.

While at the time of the settlement of the county the moose, elk, panther, Canada lynx, wolverine, wolf and beaver were regular inhabitants or frequent visitors to the county, at the present time the list of large mammals will be practically covered by mentioning the Virginia deer, red fox and raccoon, and, especially in the northern part of the county, an occasional porcupine, otter, bear, fisher, or common lynx. Yet, as long as a species occurs in the Adirondack woods, there is always a possibility of its wandering into Oneida county. Thus, although the wolf ceased to be a common animal in the Adirondacks as long ago as 1871, yet as late as 1882 bounties were paid on eight wolves in Oneida county, and in 1886 on one wolf.

With the great increase in the number of beavers in the Adirondack region, which has lately taken place as a result of restocking and protection, the reappearance of this interesting animal in the northern part of Oneida county becomes a possibility. If it does return, its establishment as a regular inhabitant will depend entirely on whether it receives protection, for the beaver is well satisfied to live in the vicinity of human beings if not molested.

Although it has been the larger animals that have suffered chiefly from persecution by man, yet the fox squirrel has also been exterminated. But most of the small mammals have been affected only indirectly by the settlement of the county, and many of them find the changes produced by man of great benefit and convenience, so that they live largely upon his crops, vegetables and poultry, causing an annual loss difficult to estimate, but undoubtedly of considerable extent.

The house mouse and black rat, as in other parts of the country, soon followed the settlers, and the latter animal became very abundant throughout this section of the state, but has been practically exterminated by the subsequent advent of the larger and more pugnacious brown or sewer rat.



In concluding this notice of the mammals some mention should be made of the bats, of which there are six or seven species. The discovery of the part that biting insects play in the transmission of diseases to human beings makes evident the value of these animals, which feed largely on mosquitoes and gnats, and they are quite as deserving of protection as any of the insectivorous birds.

The birds of Oneida county have been more thoroughly studied than any other group of animals. In 1886 a carefully prepared list with notes on habits, abundance, breeding, etc., entitled "An Annotated List of the Birds of Oneida County, N. Y., and its Immediate Vicinity," was published by William L. Ralph, M. D., and Egbert Bagg, in volume 3 of the Transactions of the Oneida Historical Society. In this list, however, a number of species were (as the title indicates), included because they had been recorded from neighboring districts, and since its publication a number of species not included in it have been observed in Oneida county.

In the Birds of New York, Memoir 12, New York State Museum, by E. Howard Eaton (volume 1, 1910), the known distribution of birds in the various counties of the state is presented in tabular form, and Oneida county is credited with 242 species, of which 129 are listed as having been known to breed in the county. This is out of a total of 411 species recorded as having occurred in the whole state. Considering that a considerable percentage of these 411 species are merely accidental visitors to the state, which are included only on the strength of their having once, or a few times only, strayed or been blown by storms to within its limits, and that Oneida county, from its geographical situation, is far removed from any of the principal migration routes of these birds, which in New York state follow the sea coast, the lake shores, the Hudson and Champlain valleys, the list is a long one.

Examining Eaton's tables more in detail, 84 out of the total number are water birds, and, as would be expected in an inland district, a majority of them are accidental or only occasional visitors, only 28 being listed as common, 13 as fairly common, and 14 as breeders. The birds of prey number 24, of which only 6 are rated as common or fairly common, and 13 as breeders. Of the remaining 134 species a larger proportion are common and breed within the county, 71 being recorded as common or abundant, 24 as fairly common, and 103 as breeders. Taking all together, this makes a total of 142 species at least fairly common, and 130 known to breed. These figures evidently give a much fairer view of the birds of the county than a simple list of the species that have at some time occurred there, perhaps as stragglers in a single instance, with little probability of a second visit from them taking place.

As in the case of the mammals, the extermination of many birds has been proceeding rapidly within the last few years. The passenger pigeon, the American egret, the Hudsonian godwit, and the long-billed curlew are not likely to be found again in this region. The golden plover is also approaching total extinction, and many of the larger birds are steadily becoming rarer. The small birds are now nearly exempt from direct persecution by man, except by the irrepressible small boy and the lawless foreign element, but great numbers are destroyed by the cats which are harbored in every country house, and many are unable to withstand



the attacks of the English sparrow, which was unwisely introduced into this country.

The native birds of this county will soon have another introduced European bird to contend with in the struggle for existence. This is the starling, which is already very abundant in the southeastern part of the state and is rapidly spreading in different directions, so that its invasion of Oneida county cannot be long delayed.

The reptiles of Oneida county form, as in most other regions where the winters are long and severe, only a comparatively inconspicuous part of its fauna. Except that one species of lizard has once been taken near Utica, the true reptiles consist entirely of turtles or tortoises, and snakes. Though a considerable number of species of these animals have a wide distribution in the eastern states, so that they may sooner or later be found in Oneida county, yet the list of common species is not a long one. It comprises six or seven turtles, all aquatic except the wood turtle, which is often found on land at some distance from water, and the box turtle, which is a true land tortoise and inhabits dry places. The last mentioned, though protected by law, is rapidly becoming extinct, as its slow movements make it a helpless victim of forest and brush fires, as well as of its human and animal enemies.

Of the snakes there are but two venomous species, the rattlesnake and copperhead, which can be found in Oneida county. They are both such rarities that they need not be a cause of concern to human beings, and they should not be made an excuse for the war of extermination which most people, through ignorance and prejudice, wage upon the inoffensive species. Except the two rare species just mentioned none of the others are poisonous, though often incorrectly reputed so. They are not merely harmless, but they constitute one of the natural checks on the multiplication of troublesome small mammals, such as field mice, and large insects, such as locusts and grasshoppers, and should be protected by the farmer instead of being destroyed at every opportunity.

The amphibians of the county include the common toad, which, in spite of its unprepossessing appearance, is most useful as a destroyer of insects, worms and slugs; tree toads; frogs, salamanders and newts; as well as the mud puppy, a large salamander-like creature, which attains a length of 18 inches or more. Since the building of the Erie canal this animal has extended its range eastward through the county and into the Hudson valley, by means of that artificial water-course.

For an inland district Oneida county is favorably situated for the occurrence of a large variety of fishes and aquatic invertebrates. The streams within its borders flow toward all the principal points of the compass, and form parts of the three great river systems, that of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence, the Hudson and the Susquehanna. In the first mentioned system of lakes and rivers a greater variety of fishes and other aquatic forms is found than in the Hudson and its tributaries, but the building of the Erie Canal opened a channel, not only for the commerce for which it was designed, but for some of the western species to invade the waters of the Hudson valley. Of this, the case of the mud puppy already mentioned is a good example. The opening of this canal, together with the practice of stocking ponds and streams with fish, native or foreign, which were not previously found in them, the killing off of less hardy species by the

destruction of forests that shaded and cooled the streams, and by the pollution of the waters, and their replacement with other species better able to withstand the new conditions, have all contributed to so change the inhabitants of our waters that it is now impossible to say what was the original distribution of many of the fishes and other animals, or, in many cases, even whether a given kind is actually a native or an introduced species.

The fish and fisheries of Oneida lake are naturally the most important in the county. In former times the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* Linnaeus) occurred there in considerable size and numbers. De Kay, in the Natural History of New York (1842), states that he had "seen some from Oneida lake weighing from ten to fifteen pounds." The brook trout, (*Salvelinus fontinalis* Mitchill) though found in streams tributary to the lake, is rarely found in the lake itself, and neither of these fishes is included in a list of the fish inhabiting the lake at the present time, which was prepared by Mr. George F. Scriba, Superintendent of the Oneida Lake Fish Hatchery at Constantia, for the writer, through the kindness of the State Fish Culturist, Dr. Tarleton H. Bean. This list contains the common names of 48 fishes, not all of which can be identified in the absence of specimens for examination, as some of the names of the catfishes, shiners, suckers, and other less important forms are applied to more than one species. The list includes, however, the following fishes:

Ling, *Lota maculosa* (Le Sueur).

Silver bass, *Roccus chrysops* (Rafinesque).

Johnny darter, *Balcosoma nigrum olmstedii* (Storer), also one undetermined darter.

Yellow perch, *Perca flavescens* (Mitchill).

Wall-eyed pike, (yellow) *Stizostedion vitreum* (Mitchill).

Wall-eyed pike, (gray) *Stizostedion canadense griseum* (DeKay).

Black bass, (small-mouthed) *Micropterus dolomieu* (Lacépède).

Black bass, (large-mouthed) *Micropterus salmoides* (Lacépède).

Sunfish, (long-eared) *Lepomis pallidus* (Mitchill).

Sunfish, (short-eared) *Eupomotis gibbosus* (Linnaeus).

Calico or strawberry bass, *Pomoxis sparoides* (Lacépède).

Rock bass, *Ambloplites rupestris* (Rafinesque).

Trout perch, *Percopsis guttatus* (Agassiz).

Mummy chog, *Fundulus diaphanus* (LeSueur).

Pike, *Lucius lucius* (Linnaeus).

Pickarel, (grass or Cazenovia) *Lucius reticulatus* (LeSueur). Two varieties.

Pickarel, (banded) *Lucius vermiculatus* (LeSueur).

Tullibee, *Argyrosomus tullibee* (Richardson).

Cisco, *Argyrosomus sisco* (Jordan).

Common eel, *Anguilla chrysypa* (Rafinesque).

German carp, *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus).

A number of species of shiners, dace and minnows, including the golden shiner, *Abramis crysolencas* (Mitchill); the spawn eater, *Notropis hudsonius* (DeWitt Clinton); the horned dace, *Notropis cornutus* (Mitchill); and buckeye shiner *Notropis atherinoides* (Rafinesque).

Chub or fallfish, *Scmotilis bullaris* (Rafinesque).

Creek chub, *Scmotilis Atromaculatus* (Mitchill).

Several species of suckers, including the so-called Mullet, *Erimyzon sucetta oblongus* (Mitchill).

Several eat fishes, including the common Bullhead, *Ameiurus nebulosus* (LeSueur).

Dogfish or bowfin, *Amia calva* (Linnaeus).

Lamprey or Lamper eel, *Petromyzon marinus unicolor* (DeKay).

Among the more conspicuous aquatic invertebrates several species of crawfishes, and a greater variety of fresh water mussels inhabit the waters of Oneida lake, than occur in those counties which are drained exclusively by the Hudson river and its tributaries.

The study of the invertebrate fauna of this state has not, however, yet progressed far enough to give more than scattered and incomplete records of the occurrence of the various species in the different parts of the state, and an attempt, at the present time, to estimate the number of species in the various classes which occur in Oneida county would be based too much on inference and conjecture to be of value.

The fish that are found in Oneida county and known by their common names are as follows:

Speckled or brook trout; lake trout; pike, or great northern pike; pickerel, (Grass or Cazenovia); pickerel, (banded); pickerel, (green and black); the back is black and the lower half of sides green; wall eyed pike (gray); wall eyed pike, (yellow); pikeperch; yellow perch; sucker, (black); sucker, (stone); suker, (striped or June); sucker, (redfin); mullet; carp; tullibee; common eiseo; sunfish, (long ear); sunfish (short ear); ling or lawyer; bullhead, (black); bullhead, (yellow); eatfish, (black); eatfish, (silver); dogfish or bowfin; black bass, (small mouth); black bass, (large mouth); bass, (strawberry or calico); bass, (rock); bass, (silver); bass, (striped); eel, (common); eel, (lamprey); salamander or lizard, (known at Constantia as dogfish, two kinds, one with black ears and one with red ears); golden shiner; silver shiner; buckeye shiner; common chub; lake chub; horned dace; blunt nosed minnow; chub, (same as fallfish); white sucker; red sided minnow; red nosed minnow; creek chub; mummy hog; stone fish, or stone pike; pin shiner; trout perch; johnny darter; crawfish or crab, (green, hard shell in lake only); crawfish or crab, (black); crawfish or crab, (brown).

The following list of the birds has been prepared for this work by Mr. Egbert Bagg, of Utica, a member of American Ornithologists' Union.

*Colymbus holboelli*—Holboell's Grebe.

*Colymbus auritus*—Horned Grebe.

*Podilymbus podiceps*—Pied-billed Grebe.

*Gavia immer*—Loon.

*Gavia stellata*—Red-throated Loon.

*Uria lomvia lomvia*—Brünnich's Murre.

*Rissa tridaactyla tridaactyla*—Kittiwake.

*Larus argentatus*—Herring Gull.

*Larus delawarensis*—Ring-billed Gull.

*Larus philadelphia*—Bonaparte's Gull.

*Sterna hirundo*—Common Tern.

*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*—Black Tern.  
*Rynchops nigra*—Black Skimmer.  
*Aestrelata hasitata*—Black-capped Petrel.  
*Phalacrocorax carbo*—Cormorant.  
*Phalacrocorax auritus auritus*—Double-crested Cormorant.  
*Mergus americanus*—Merganser.  
*Mergus serrator*—Red-breasted Merganser.  
*Lophodytes cucullatus*—Hooded Merganser.  
*Anas platyrhynchos*—Mallard.  
*Anas rubripes*—Black Duck.  
*Chaulelasmus streperus*—Gadwall.  
*Mareca americana*—Baldpate.  
*Nettion carolinense*—Green-winged Teal.  
*Querquedula discors*—Blue-winged Teal.  
*Spatula clypeata*—Shoveller.  
*Dafla acuta*—Pintail.  
*Aix sponsa*—Wood Duck.  
*Marila americana*—Redhead.  
*Marila valisineria*—Canvas-back.  
*Marila marila*—Scaup Duck.  
*Marila affinis*—Lesser Scaup Duck.  
*Clangula clangula americana*—Golden-eye.  
*Charitonetta albeola*—Buffle-head.  
*Harelda hyemalis*—Old-squaw.  
*Somateria spectabilis*—King Eider.  
*Oidemia americana*—Scoter.  
*Oidemia deglandi*—White-winged Scoter.  
*Oidemia perspicillata*—Surf Scoter.  
*Erismatura jamaicensis*—Ruddy Duck.  
*Branta canadensis canadensis*—Canada Goose.  
*Branta nigricans*—Black Brant.  
*Olor columbianus*—Whistling Swan.  
*Botaurus lentiginosus*—Bittern.  
*Ixobrychus exilis*—Least Bittern.  
*Ardea herodias herodias*—Great Blue Heron.  
*Herodias egretta*—Egret.  
*Butorides virescens virescens*—Green Heron.  
*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*—Black-crowned Night Heron.  
*Rallus virginianus*—Virginia Rail.  
*Porzana carolina*—Sora.  
*Coturnicops noveboracensis*—Yellow Rail.  
*Gallinula galeata*—Florida Gallinule.  
*Fulica americana*—Coot.  
*Phalaropus fulicarius*—Red Phalarope.  
*Lobipes lobatus*—Northern Phalarope.  
*Philohela minor*—Woodcock.  
*Gallinago delicata*—Wilson's Snipe.



*Macrorhamphus griseus griseus*—Dowitcher.  
*Tringa canutus*—Knot.  
*Pisobia maculata*—Peetoral Sandpiper.  
*Pisobia fusciollis*—White-rumped Sandpiper.  
*Pisobia bairdi*—Baird's Sandpiper.  
*Pisobia minutilla*—Least Sandpiper.  
*Pelidna alpina sakhalina*—Red-backed Sandpiper.  
*Ereunetes pusillus*—Semipalmated Sandpiper.  
*Calidris leucophaea*—Sanderling.  
*Limosa haemastica*—Hudsonian Godwit.  
*Totanus melanoleucus*—Greater Yellow-legs.  
*Totanus flavipes*—Yellow-legs.  
*Helodromas solitarius solitarius*—Solitary Sandpiper.  
*Bartramia longicauda*—Upland Plover.  
*Actitis macularius*—Spotted Sandpiper.  
*Neumenius hudsonicus*—Hudsonian Curlew.  
*Squatarola Squatarola*—Black-bellied Plover.  
*Charadrius dominicus dominicus*—Golden Plover.  
*Oxyechus vociferus*—Killdeer.  
*Aegialitis semipalmata*—Semipalmated Plover.  
*Arenaria interpres interpres*—Turnstone.  
*Colinus virginianus virginianus*—Bob-white.  
*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*—Ruffed Grouse.  
*Ectopistes migratorius*—Passenger Pigeon.  
*Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*—Mourning Dove.  
*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*—Turkey Vulture.  
*Circus Hudsonius*—Marsh Hawk.  
*Accipiter cooperi*—Copper's Hawk.  
*Accipiter velox*—Sharp-shinned Hawk.  
*Astur atricapillus atricapillus*—Goshawk.  
*Buteo borealis borealis*—Red-tailed Hawk.  
*Buteo lineatus lineatus*—Red-shouldered Hawk.  
*Buteo platypterus*—Broad-winged Hawk.  
*Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*—Rough-legged Hawk.  
*Aquila chrysaetos*—Golden Eagle.  
*Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus*—Bald Eagle.  
*Falco peregrinus anatum*—Duck Hawk.  
*Falco columbarius columbarius*—Pigeon Hawk.  
*Falco sparverius sparverius*—Sparrow Hawk.  
*Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*—Osprey.  
*Aluco pratensis*—Barn Owl.  
*Asio Wilsonianus*—Long-eared Owl.  
*Asio flammeus*—Short-eared Owl.  
*Strix varia varia*—Barred Owl.  
*Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa*—Great Gray Owl.  
*Cryptoglaux acadica acadica*—Saw-whet Owl.  
*Otus asio asio*—Screech Owl.

*Bubo virginianus virginianus*—Great Horned Owl.  
*Nyctea nyctea*—Snowy Owl.  
*Surnia ulula caparoch*—Hawk Owl.  
*Coccyzus americanus americanus*—Yellow-billed Cuckoo.  
*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*—Black-billed Cuckoo.  
*Ceryle alcyon*—Belted Kingfisher.  
*Dryobates villosus villosus*—Hairy Woodpecker.  
*Dryobates pubescens medianus*—Downy Woodpecker.  
*Picoides arcticus*—Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker.  
*Picoides americanus americanus*—Three-toed Woodpecker.  
*Sphyrapicus varius varius*—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.  
*Phloeotomus pileatus pileatus*—Pileated Woodpecker.  
*Melanerpes erthrocephalus*—Red-headed Woodpecker.  
*Centurus carolinus*—Red-bellied Woodpecker.  
*Colaptes auratus auratus*—Flicker.  
*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*—Whip-poor-Will.  
*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*—Nighthawk.  
*Chaetura pelagica*—Chimney Swift.  
*Archilochus colubris*—Ruby-throated Hummingbird.  
*Tyrannus tyrannus*—Kingbird.  
*Myiarchus crinitus*—Crested Flycatcher.  
*Sayornis phoebe*—Phoebe.  
*Nuttallornis borealis*—Olive-sided Flycatcher.  
*Empidonax flaviventris*—Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.  
*Empidonax trailli alnorum*—Alder Flycatcher.  
*Empidonax minimus*—Least Flycatcher.  
*Myiochanes virens*—Wood Pewee.  
*Otocoris alpestris alpestris*—Horned Lark.  
*Otocoris alpestris praticola*—Prairie Horned Lark.  
*Cyanocitta cristata cristata*—Blue Jay.  
*Perisoreus canadensis canadensis*—Canada Jay.  
*Corvus corax principallis*—Northern Raven.  
*Corvus brachyrhynchos brachyrhynchos*—Crow.  
*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*—Bobolink.  
*Molothrus ater ater*—Cowbird.  
*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*—Red-winged Blackbird.  
*Sturnella magna magna*—Meadowlark.  
*Icterus spurius*—Orchard Oriole.  
*Icterus galbula*—Baltimore Oriole.  
*Euphagus carolinus*—Rusty Blackbird.  
*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*—Bronzed Grackle.  
*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*—Evening Grosbeak.  
*Pinicola enucleator leucura*—Pine Grosbeak.  
*Carpodacus purpureus purpureus*—Purple Finch.  
*Loxia curvirostra minor*—Crossbill.  
*Loxia leucoptera*—White-winged Crossbill.  
*Acanthis linaria linaria*—Redpoll.

*Astragalinus tristis tristis*—Goldfinch.  
*Spinus pinus*—Pine Siskin.  
*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*—Snow Bunting.  
*Proocetes gramineus gramineus*—Vesper Sparrow.  
*Passerculus sandwichensis savanna*—Savannah Sparrow.  
*Ammodramus savannarum australis*—Grasshopper Sparrow.  
*Passerherbulus nelsoni nelsoni*—Nelson's Sparrow.  
*Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*—White-crowned Sparrow.  
*Zonotrichia albicollis*—White-throated Sparrow.  
*Spizella monticola monticola*—Tree Sparrow.  
*Spizella passerina passerina*—Chipping Sparrow.  
*Spizella pusilla pusilla*—Field Sparrow.  
*Junco hyemalis hyemalis*—Slate-colored Junco.  
*Melospiza melodia melodia*—Song Sparrow.  
*Melospiza lincolni lincolni*—Lincoln's Sparrow.  
*Melospiza georgiana*—Swamp Sparrow.  
*Passerella iliaca iliaca*—Fox Sparrow.  
*Pipilo erythrophthalmus erythrophthalmus*—Towhee.  
*Zamelodia ludoviciana*—Rose-breasted Grosbeak.  
*Guiraca caerulea caerulea*—Blue Grosbeak.  
*Passerina cyanea*—Indigo Bunting.  
*Piranga erythromelas*—Scarlet Tanager.  
*Progne subis subis*—Purple Martin.  
*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*—Cliff Swallow.  
*Hirundo erythrogastra*—Barn Swallow.  
*Iridoprocne bicolor*—Tree Swallow.  
*Riparia riparia*—Bank Swallow.  
*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*—Rough-winged Swallow.  
*Bombycilla garrula*—Bohemian Waxwing.  
*Bombycilla cedrorum*—Cedar Waxwing.  
*Lanius borealis*—Northern Shrike.  
*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*—Migrant Shrike.  
*Vireosylva olivacea*—Red-eyed Vireo.  
*Vireosylva philadelphia*—Philadelphia Vireo.  
*Vireosylva gilva gilva*—Warbling Vireo.  
*Lanivireo flavifrons*—Yellow-throated Vireo.  
*Lanivireo solitarius solitarius*—Blue-headed Vireo.  
*Mniotilta varia*—Black and White Warbler.  
*Vermivora rubricapilla rubricapilla*—Nashville Warbler.  
*Vermivora celata celata*—Orange-crowned Warbler.  
*Vermivora peregrina*—Tennessee Warbler.  
*Compsothlypis americana usneae*—Northern Parula Warbler.  
*Dendroica tigrina*—Cape May Warbler.  
*Dendroica aestiva aestiva*—Yellow Warbler.  
*Dendroica caerulescens caerulescens*—Black-throated Blue Warbler.  
*Dendroica coronata*—Myrtle Warbler.  
*Dendroica magnolia*—Magnolia Warbler.

*Dendroica cerulea*—Cerulean Warbler.  
*Dendroica pennsylvanica*—Chestnut-sided Warbler.  
*Dendroica castanea*—Bay-breasted Warbler.  
*Dendroica striata*—Black-poll Warbler.  
*Dendroica fusca*—Blackburnian Warbler.  
*Dendroica virens*—Black-throated Green Warbler.  
*Dendroica vigorsi*—Pine Warbler.  
*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*—Yellow Palm Warbler.  
*Seiurus aurocapillus*—Oven-bird.  
*Seiurus noveboracensis noveboracensis*—Water-Thrush.  
*Seiurus motacilla*—Louisiana Water-Thrush.  
*Oporornis agilis*—Connecticut Warbler.  
*Oporornis philadelphia*—Mourning Warbler.  
*Geothlypis trichas trichas*—Maryland Yellow-throat.  
*Icteria virens virens*—Yellow-breasted Chat.  
*Wilsonia citrina*—Hooded Warbler.  
*Wilsonia pusilla pusilla*—Wilson's Warbler.  
*Wilsonia canadensis*—Canada Warbler.  
*Setophaga ruticilla*—Redstart.  
*Anthus rubescens*—Pipit.  
*Dumetella carolinensis*—Catbird.  
*Toxostoma rufum*—Brown Thrasher.  
*Troglodytes aëdon aëdon*—House Wren.  
*Nannus hiemalis hiemalis*—Winter Wren.  
*Telmatodytes palustris palustris*—Long-billed Marsh Wren.  
*Certhia familiaris americana*—Brown Creeper.  
*Sitta carolinensis carolinensis*—White-breasted Nuthatch.  
*Sitta canadensis*—Red-breasted Nuthatch.  
*Penthestes atricapillus atricapillus*—Chickadee.  
*Penthestes hudsonicus hudsonicus*—Hudsonian Chickadee.  
*Regulus satrapa satrapa*—Golden-crowned Kinglet.  
*Regulus calendula calendula*—Ruby-crowned Kinglet.  
*Hylocichla mustelina*—Wood Thrush.  
*Hylocichla fuscescens fuscescens*—Veery.  
*Hylocichla aliciae aliciae*—Gray-cheeked Thrush.  
*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*—Olive-backed Thrush.  
*Hylocichla guttata pallasi*—Hermit Thrush.  
*Planesticus migratorius migratorius*—Robin.  
*Sialia sialis sialis*—Bluebird.



## CHAPTER X

### POLITICAL HISTORY 1698—1812

The Earl of Bellomont was made Governor of the colony, and arrived in New York City in 1698. He was a man of ability, and ruled with fairness and good judgment.

Then followed several governors, good and bad, until the arrival of William Cosby in 1732. Governor Cosby is closely identified with the subject of this history, from the fact that in 1732 he acquired what is known as Cosby's Manor, upon which a large portion of the city of Utica stands. Rip Van Dam was the acting governor of the colony of New York when Cosby arrived, and, as he and Cosby held opposite views politically, two parties arose in the colony, one, the aristocratic party, siding with the governor, called the Tory party, and the liberal party, siding with Cosby, was known as the Whig party. This distinction existed before any of the colonists advocated independence of the colonies, but after the declaration of independence, the term "Tory" was used to designate those who were with the King, and the term "Whig" to designate those who cast their lots with the revolutionists.

The Revolutionary war had substantially depopulated the upper Mohawk valley, and from the close of the war down to the organization of the county no great events occurred within the territory which afterward became Oneida county.

Sullivan's campaign was not strictly an affair of Oneida county, yet his army passed through the county, chastised the Indians, burned their villages and their grain, and it was said of this campaign that he found the Indian country a garden and left it a desert.

In the year 1784 the Father of his Country visited Fort Stanwix, but there is nothing written that can be found concerning the particulars or object of his visit. It is probable that the visit was solely to see the grounds where so important events had transpired during the Revolutionary war as those within the upper Mohawk valley. A council between the officers of the state and of the general government and the Iroquois Indian Nations occurred in this year at Fort Stanwix. The great chiefs, Brant, Red Jacket, Cornplanter, and other of their chiefs, met Governor Clinton and the representatives of the general government, and a treaty covering some disputed points was made with the government, but no land was ceded either to the government or to the state. Another council was held at Fort Stanwix in 1788. This is known as the Great Council with the Indians, and it resulted in the treaty with the Iroquois Nations by which they ceded to the white men the territory, except the Oneida Reservation, with other, now called Oneida county. This Council occurred in August



O. E. ELMER, AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, 1905, SUPPOSED TO BE THE OLDEST  
MAN IN AMERICA; IT IS CLAIMED HE WAS 119 YEARS OF AGE

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and September of that year. Governor Clinton and a number of distinguished personages represented the state, and prominent chiefs of the Iroquois Nations and other prominent men cared for the interests of the Indians. A great number of spectators from the Indian Nations assembled to witness the ceremony and join in the festivities which occurred; it is said there were thousands of Indians present upon this occasion. Before this, designing white men had planned to obtain long leases of the Indian lands, as title could not be obtained under the laws of the state. These designing men had sent their emissaries among the Indians, and by presents and the use of fire water had so far worked upon them as to require a great effort upon the part of the state authorities to prevent the accomplishment of their purpose. Governor Clinton determined to frustrate their plans. He sent his agents among the Indians to counteract the influence of the others, and called this great Council to consummate his purpose of saving the Indians from fraud and the lands for the State of New York. For this he is entitled to great credit. His efforts were entirely successful, the treaty having been agreed upon and ratified at Fort Stanwix June 16, 1790.

It was during the year 1790 that the county of Herkimer was created from Montgomery, and included the territory now Oneida county with much more territory. It was also during this year that the Genesee Road was begun, and the first mail route was established between Utica and Canajoharie. A United States census was also taken during this year, and it showed that between the Fording Place at the foot of Genesee street, Utica, and the county of Ontario, there were 6,891 inhabitants. The Puritans, or as they were called, the Yankees, who had settled in the Valley, advocated the division of Herkimer county, but it was opposed by the Dutch. The Yankee, however, prevailed, and the county of Oneida was formed March 15, 1798. Changes were made about this time in regard to towns, and St. Lawrence, Lewis and Jefferson counties were carved out of Oneida, as is noted elsewhere. There were some settlements made in different parts of the territory by those who had the courage to defy hardships for what they saw in the future. Hugh White and family of Middletown, Ct., settled in Whitestown as early as June 5, 1784. There had been some other settlements at Fort Stanwix and in Deerfield, also in some other localities, but these were not permanent. Some of these settlers, having been driven out by the war, returned after peace was established. This was notably the case with George J. Weaver, Mark Damuth and Christian Reall, who settled in Deerfield in 1773, and returned in 1784. Courts had been held in New Hartford, (then Whitestown) and Fort Stanwix, schools had been established to some extent, and something had been done in the way of the improvement of roads and the building of bridges. It is stated on the authority of Mr. Jones, father of Pomroy Jones, author of "Annals of Oneida County," that as late as 1787 there were at old Fort Schuyler (now Utica) three houses, seven at Whitesboro, three at Oriskany, four at Fort Stanwix (Rome) and three at Westmoreland, most of which were huts. It is evident that soon after this there was quite an increase of immigration to this locality, for soon after 1800 there were in Utica about 70 buildings and about 50 in Rome.

It cannot be said that there was any political history of the county before its legal existence, yet there had been political divisions among the settlers



from the earliest period. Soon after the United States government was fully established the political parties divided on different lines than those which existed before the war. The Tories, who remained in the vicinity, were discredited, and in some instances were ostracized to such an extent that they finally left the country. The terms "Whig" and "Tory" were no longer used to designate the political parties, but they were known as the Federal party and the Republican party. The Federalists were the followers of Alexander Hamilton, and believed in the concentration of power in the central government. The Republicans were led by Thomas Jefferson, and advocated the retaining of many of the powers in the people and in the states, as such, which the Federalists would give to the general government. This division existed before Oneida county was organized, and at that time John Jay, a Federalist, was governor. Prior to the separation of the colonies from the mother country the people had very little to do with either the colonial or county government, but after the creation of the state of New York, and in 1777, the Provincial Congress adopted a state constitution. This was done without submitting it to the people. The Congress adopted the constitution, and it was accepted by the people as their act. This constitution left with the people many privileges that they did not have before, and these rights were general, except as restricted by the constitution of the United States and of the State of New York, although suffrage was restricted to those having a property qualification. In the early history of the county the Federalists had a majority of the voters, but when St. Lawrence county was taken off in 1802 the Republicans were in the majority, but when Lewis and Jefferson counties were set off in 1805, the Federalists again found themselves in a majority. The opposition of the Federal party to the war of 1812 greatly weakened that party, and it faded away until, in 1819, it had virtually disbanded. A portion of the party joined the Democrats, the other portion followed Clinton, and were called Clintonians, and they constituted a majority of the voters in the county. There were some political events between the close of the Revolutionary war and 1810. It seems that the village of Hampton in the village of Westmoreland was the political center of the county, and the important meetings and conventions of the respective parties were generally held there. At this time it is extremely difficult to obtain reliable information in regard to events during that period, but from fragmentary files of ancient newspapers some facts worthy of record are attainable. The first state election in which Oneida county played an important part was in 1810, when Jonas Platt, a resident of Whitesboro, was the Federalist candidate for governor against Daniel D. Tompkins, who, at that time, filled the executive chair of state. Mr. Platt was one of the foremost lawyers of the state, and a sketch of his life is found in another chapter. Although he was defeated in the campaign of 1810, he carried the county by a vote of 2,376 against 1,899. It will be remembered that prior to 1822 general elections were held on the last Tuesday of April, and they might continue for five days. From that time until 1842 general elections were held on the first Monday of November, but on April 5, 1842, a statute was passed making the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November the day for holding general elections, although for some time afterward town elections were held in March. The fact that elections

were held in the spring forced the political campaign to be carried on during the winter, and some of these early campaigns were intensely interesting.

1801—The first Constitutional Convention assembled in Albany, October 13, 1801. The delegates from Oneida county were James Dean, Bezaleel Fish and Henry Huntington. The most prominent of these men was Mr. Dean. He was one of the earliest settlers of the county, had acquired a large tract of land by patent, had much to do with the Indians, mastered the language of the Iroquois and had great influence among that most remarkable people. Mr. Huntington was also prominent among business men in the early history of the county, was connected with the first bank organized in Utica, and finally became its president.

1803—The election of 1803, although there were no particular local differences to make it more exciting than others, assumed great proportions in the state by reason of the fact that it was the beginning of a life and death struggle between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr. Differences had arisen prior to this between these two great men, and the sequel of the election in the following year was the awful tragedy at Weehawken, when Hamilton, perhaps the foremost intellect among American citizens, was murdered by his unscrupulous rival. The state was in political turmoil during the year 1803. The Republican county convention was held at the house of Moses Bagg, in the village of Utica, on the 29th day of March, and resolved to support Caleb Hyde for senator for the Western District, and Joseph Jennings, Thomas Hart, Walter Martin and Nathan Sage for members of assembly; it also appointed Francis A. Bloodgood, Nathan Williams, Apollos Cooper, James Kip, Needon Maynard, Rufus Easton and Oliver Lucas a committee to correspond with different committees and prepare an address to the people. In their address, among other things, they said of their opponents, "Every day they blaspheme the name of Washington, whilst the name of their idol, the name of John Adams is continuously avoided. The Republicans revere and follow Washington; but the administration of Adams they hope will never be renewed." The records attainable do not show who the local opposing candidates were at this election. The returns of this election show that Vincent Matthews, the Federal candidate for senator, carried the county by 269 majority, and the Federal candidates for assembly, Ostrom, Coffeem, Kirkland and VanEps were elected by an average majority of about 300.

1804—The election of 1804 was most interesting, as the candidate of the Federal party for governor was Aaron Burr, and of the Republican party Morgan Lewis. From an editorial in the *Columbian Gazette* of March 5, 1804, we quote the following: "To our Republican fellow citizens in this county and the western district, we would recommend the strictest unanimity and firmness in the approaching election. If any person mentions the name of Mr. Burr as governor observe the Meddler, you will certainly find the man to be a Federalist, the policy of whose party (in this district) is to create confusion and to disunite us. Let such men be treated with that contempt which they so richly merit, and their assertions, upon this occasion, be classed with the numerous falsehoods and improbable rumors which have been propagated by the same industrious drudges on the eve of former elections. We can assure you, upon

the most authentic information, that Judge Lewis will receive the unanimous support of the Republicans throughout the state, that Mr. Burr can only rely upon the votes of a few friends, who, though calling themselves Republicans, are secretly associated with many of the Federal party, and who, when united, will make but a sorry show, either in number or responsibility, in short, we have no doubt that Judge Lewis will succeed by a vast majority. We are confident that no Republican in the western district will disgrace himself so far as to be persuaded into a pitiful minority or forsake the great body of his fellow citizens, upon so important an occasion." This same paper gives an account of a meeting of the members of the legislature and other prominent citizens on February 20 at the Assembly Chamber in the Capitol at Albany, when a communication was received from Chancellor Livingston, declining the nomination for governor that had been tendered him, and this meeting "Resolved unanimously that the Honorable Morgan Lewis, Chief Justice of the state is considered by this meeting a suitable candidate for the office of governor, and that Mr. Taylor, Mr. Johnson, Mr. L'Hommedieu and Mr. Talmadge of the senate, and Mr. Peck, Mr. Few, Mr. Elmendorf and Mr. Mooers of the assembly be a committee to wait upon his honor, the Chief Justice, to know whether he will accept the nomination." The committee reported that the Chief Justice would accept the nomination. He was, therefore, declared nominated, and John Broome was nominated for lieutenant governor. This meeting then prepared and sent forth an address to the people, advocating the election of the candidates which it had nominated. Mr. Lewis was elected governor, and carried the county against Mr. Burr by a majority of 248.

1805—In the *Columbian Gazette* of April 8, 1805, we learn that the Republican county convention was held at the hotel in Hampton, April 2, and that the following ticket was nominated: For senators, John Nichols and Obadiah German; for members of assembly, Joseph Jennings, George Brayton, Thomas Hart. In the same paper appears an account of the organization of the two new counties, Jefferson and Lewis, and a statement of the officers of those counties. In the *Columbian Gazette* of April 22, is found a report of the convention of the Federal Republican electors held at Whitesboro, April 13, at which were nominated for the assembly David Ostrom, George Doolittle and Peter Schuyler. The Republican electors of Chenango county had met at Oxford, February 20, and ratified the nomination of John Nichols and Nathan Lock for senators; the same proceedings were had in Onondaga county, and also at Geneva. In many instances it is impossible to ascertain who the opposing candidates were, for the papers in those days said very little about the opposite parties except in the way of abuse, but from the civil lists of the state of New York covering this period the names of the successful parties can be ascertained, and it appears that John Nichols and Nathan Lock were elected to the senate.

1806—As this was the year in which a president was to be elected, the campaign was exciting, and the usual amount of bitter attacks on the opposite candidates was indulged in. James Madison was the Democratic candidate for president, and Charles Cotsworth Pinkney the Federal candidate. The legis-





TABLET OF ORISKANY MONUMENT  
GENERAL HERKIMER AFTER HE WAS  
WOUNDED



ONE OF THE TABLETS OF ORISKANY MONUMENT





lature of New York elected that year was controlled by the friends of Mr. Madison, and Joshua Hathaway was appointed presidential elector for this congressional district. The vote in the legislature for president was as follows: Madison 122; George Clinton 6; Pinkney 48; for vice president, Clinton 113; Rufus King 48; John Langdon 9, and Madison and Monroe each one. The local ticket for that year appears in the *Columbian Gazette* for April 26, and was as follows: For senators, Francis A. Bloodgood, Sylvanus Smalley, Luther Rich, Silas Halsey and Walter Martin. At this time senators were elected by great districts, and Francis A. Bloodgood, of Utica, was the candidate from this county. John Hathaway was the candidate for representative in Congress, and the candidates for assembly were Nathan Pike, Leavitt Fox, Joseph Mott and Thomas H. Hamilton. The Republican county convention was held that year at Hampton in the town of Westmoreland, and this ticket was ratified in that convention. A local Republican ticket seems also to have been nominated by a public meeting held in Utica on the third day of April, and the ticket consisted of John Nicholson for representative in Congress; for senators, Jacob Gebhard, Nathan Smith, John Ballard and Samuel Buel; and for members of assembly, Thomas Hart, Joseph Jennings and George Brayton. A popular meeting was also held in Utica, April 5, at which resolutions were passed adopting the above candidates for the assembly and the candidates for senator, with the exception that Evan Wharry was substituted in the place of Nathan Smith, and William Kirkpatrick was nominated for representative in Congress. There was still another meeting held at New Hartford on April 14, at which Col. Oliver Collins presided, and at which William Kirkpatrick was endorsed for Congress; George Brayton, Charles Z. Platt and Uri Doolittle for members of assembly, and Freegift Patchen, Evans Wharry, John M'Whorton and Joseph Annin were nominated for senators. The returns of this election show that for senators Wharry received 150 majority, Annin 150 majority, M'Whorton 127 majority, and Patchen 131 majority; Kirkpatrick for Congress received about 400 majority; Doolittle and Platt were elected to the assembly by about 300 majority each, while Brayton seems to have had no opposition, receiving 2,334 votes, and none cast against him so far as the record shows. It is worthy of remark here, that so slow were the facilities for procuring information, that not until June 3 did the newspapers announce the result of the election for the senate in the western district, and on June 24 the announcement was made through the *Columbian Gazette* that Kirkpatrick had been elected to Congress.

1807—An interesting incident occurred during the early part of the year 1807. A meeting of Republicans was called to be held at the house of A. Loomis in Westmoreland on the 15th day of January. It was largely attended, and the object was to formulate an address to be presented to Thomas Jefferson, requesting him to stand as a candidate for election to the presidency. The address presented to Mr. Jefferson was a somewhat lengthy paper, laudatory of him and his party and bitterly condemning prior administrations, and closed as follows: "We offer no adulatory praise; we dedicate no fulsome panegyric. But, as men, anxious for the prosperity and happiness of the nation, we cannot forbear calling upon you to relinquish the idea of retiring from our counsel. . . . . We, therefore, expect from you, Sir, that the public good

will outweigh all private considerations, and that you will accept our suffrages and support and again preside over a people happy under your administration." On the 16th day of February, at Albany, by a majority of the Republican members of the legislature, a number of prominent citizens from various parts of the state. Daniel D. Tompkins was nominated for governor and John Broome for lieutenant governor. The usual address was issued to the people, and signed by those who took part in the meeting. It was stated at this time that the legislature stood, as divided between the party, as follows: In the Senate 21 Republicans, 11 Lewisites, (as they were then called); and in the Assembly 48 Republicans, 34 Lewisites and 18 Federalists, making the number of the assembly at that time 100.

1808—In 1808 the Federal Republican nominations were made April 1, at a meeting held at the hotel in Utica. This meeting was of electors and not of delegates. At this meeting a resolution was passed by which it was "Resolved unanimously that Thomas R. Gold be recommended to the electors of the congressional district in which the county of Oneida may be included, as a suitable character for representative in Congress." It was also resolved that Henry M. Niel was a "suitable character" to stand as a candidate for senator, and that David Ostrom, Benjamin Wright, James Dean, Joel Bristoll and John Storrs were "suitable characters" to stand as candidates for members of assembly in the county. There was appended to the report of this meeting the names of those who took part in it, there being several hundred, and the presiding officer was Benjamin Walker. It seems that the politicians of that early day had a curious way of presenting their candidates to the people. For instance, on March 25, 1808, a meeting of electors was held at the house of A. Fairchild in the town of Remsen, and this meeting presented candidates as follows: For Senator, Enoch Hall; for representative in Congress, John Easton, for member of assembly, James Sheldon. Such meetings as these were evidently held to place before the people the candidate which a certain clique or number of men desired for the respective offices. As to how effective this meeting was in furthering the interests of the respective candidates there are no records to enable us to tell. From the returns of the following election it appears, however, that Mr. Gold, the Federal candidate for representative in Congress, had a majority of 715, and that the Federal candidates for senator received an average majority of about 300, while the assemblymen received a majority of about 600. Commenting upon the result of this election the Patriot said: "We do not exult; but we rejoice that this respectable county continues, not only firm and steadfast, but that it is increasing in strength."

An unusual meeting assembled at Utica, September 3, 1808. This meeting was called for the purpose of addressing the President of the United States upon the subject of the relation between this country and foreign nations. The famous Embargo Act was working great injury to the commerce of this country, and the opposition of the Federalists to the government was intense. The meeting passed resolutions condemning the Embargo Act, and calling on the President for its suspension. A committee was appointed from each town of the county, and an address was prepared to be forwarded to the President. Mr. Jefferson, the President, paid the inhabitants of the county the respect of

answering their communication, and this is so extraordinary a paper that we give it in full: "To the inhabitants of the county of Oneida in meeting assembled: Your representation and request were received on the 11th inst., and have been considered with the attention due to every expression of the sentiments and feelings of so respectable a body of my fellow citizens. No person has seen with more concern than myself, the inconveniences brought on our country in general, by the circumstances of the times in which we happen to live; times to which the history of nations presents no parallel. For years we have been looking as spectators on our brethren of Europe, afflicted by all those evils which necessarily follow the abandonment of the moral rules which bind men and nations together. Connected with them in friendship and commerce, we have happily so far kept aloof from their calamitous conflicts, by a steady observance of justice towards all, by much forbearance and multiplied sacrifices. At length, however, all regard to the rights of others have been thrown aside, the belligerent powers have beset the highway of commercial intercourse with edicts which, taken together, expose our commerce and mariners under almost every destination, a prey to other fleets and armies. Each party indeed would admit our commerce with themselves, with the view of associating us in their war against the other; but we have wished war with neither. Under these circumstances were passed the laws of which you complain, by those delegated to exercise the powers of legislation for you, with every sympathy of a common interest in exercising them faithfully. In reviewing these measures therefore, we should advert to the difficulties out of which a choice was of necessity to be made. To have submitted our rightful commerce to prohibitions and tributary exactions from others, would have been to surrender our independence. To resist them by arms was war, without consulting the state of things or the choice of the nations. The alternative preferred by the legislature of suspending a commerce placed under such unexampled difficulties, besides saving to our citizens their property, and our mariners to their country, has the peculiar advantage of giving time to the belligerent nations to revise a conduct as contrary to their interests as it is to our rights. In the event of such peace or suspension of hostilities between the belligerent powers of Europe, or of such change in their measures affecting neutral commerce, as may render that of the United States sufficiently safe in the judgment of the president, he is authorized to suspend the embargo. But no peace or suspension of hostilities, no change of measures affecting neutral commerce, is known to have taken place. The Orders of England, and the Decrees of France and Spain, existing at the date of these laws, are still unrepealed, as far as we know. In Spain, indeed, a contest for the government appears to have risen; but of its course or prospects we have no information on which prudence would undertake a hasty change in our policy. I should with great willingness have executed your wishes had peace or a repeal of the obnoxious edicts, or other changes, produced the case in which alone the laws have given me that authority: and so many motives of justice and interest lead to such changes, that we ought continually to expect them. But while these edicts remain, the legislature alone can prescribe the course to be pursued. Thomas Jefferson."



1809—A meeting of electors of Oneida county of great importance was held at Whitesboro on the 2d day of March, 1809, and it is stated that more than 1,500 men attended. The object of the meeting was said to be to take into consideration the present state of the country as to suitable candidates for senators of the western district and members of assembly of the county. The senatorial ticket, which had been nominated at a meeting held at Onondaga, January 25, was approved. This ticket consisted of Jonas Platt of Oneida, Amos Hall of Ontario, and Seth Phelps of Cayuga. The meeting then nominated for members of assembly, David Ostrom, John Storrs, John Humaston, Samuel Chandler and Levi Carpenter, Jr. The meeting was addressed by Hon. Thomas R. Gold, and it adopted a series of resolutions. The result of the meeting was published, together with the names of the persons who participated. It is remarkable that a body of men so prominent and influential should have arrayed themselves in so pronounced a manner against the administration in such a critical time as that proved to be. The first resolution began as follows: "Resolved, that the powers given to the Congress of the United States for the purpose of protection and defense, have been turned against the country, whereby the charter rights of the citizens are subverted, and the fruits of our glorious revolution put in jeopardy." This indicates the spirit of the meeting, and the remarkable part of the situation appears, in fact, that the measures taken by the government were productive of the rights of the United States against the insults of foreign countries. The committee appointed at this meeting issued an address in which the administration was violently assailed, and the former Federal administrations inordinately lauded. The address closed as follows: "Is it not time to withhold our confidence from men who have drawn so thick a cloud of evil over the fair sunshine of our prosperity, who have blasted the rich harvest of blessings planted and erected by their predecessors; who have been abundant in words but sparing in works of utility? \* \* \* We recommend to your suffrages candidates of the school of Washington, who warmly approve of his principles and admire his example; men, who when their country calls for acts of energy, will not be found skulking behind a proclamation; who will not quit the highway of nations to seek for shelter beneath the fir trees of an embargo; who, under the pretence of preserving property of the citizens, will not forbid them the use of it; and to enforce the preposterous mandate, deprive us of a trial by jury, and subject our persons and the earnings of laborious industry, to the craving desires of angry caprice of every petty collector armed with the power of a military despot." It is a remarkable fact that this committee was composed of many of the most prominent men residing in the county, the chairman being Benjamin Walker, and among the members were Morris S. Miller, Erastus Clark, Charles C. Broadhead, Jedediah Sanger, Thomas R. Gold, William G. Tracy and others. It is noteworthy that a meeting was held at Oxford, Chenango county, on the 20th day of March, 1809, at which the senatorial ticket was approved, and resolutions in the same spirit of those in Oneida county were adopted by the Federal Republicans. A number of bolting Whigs, calling themselves American Whigs, issued an address advising the support of the ticket nominated by the Federalists. They constituted what might be called the peace element of the Whig party, and it would seem as if they were for



COLONEL BENJAMIN WALKER  
Aid to George Washington





"peace at any price." The Republican party accused the Democrats in this election of nominating a Tory for the senate, and the other party reiterated by making the same charge; and, as no person could be in worse odor than a Tory, this was supposed to be enough to disqualify any candidate from receiving the vote of any citizen. The attack upon the respective candidates seemed to have little effect, as the Federalists carried the county by their usual majority. For senators, Platt carried the county by 583 majority, Hall by 582, Phillips by 586, and the Federal assemblymen were elected by substantially the same majority. A meeting of the Federalists to rejoice over the election was held May 5 at Whitestown. After the adoption of resolutions denouncing Mr. Jefferson as president, declining to express opinion upon the differences between the United States and Great Britain, denouncing Napoleon, and favoring some amicable arrangement with Great Britain to settle the differences, they held a banquet, at which Colonel Benjamin Walker presided, and at which seventeen toasts were responded to. It would be interesting to give them all, but we will only occupy the space to give two or three. The second was as follows: "James Madison, president of the United States; we hail the first act of his administration, as a pledge, that unlike his predecessor, he will prefer the great interests of the nation to the gratification of foreign partialities or party prejudices." The third one was: "The constitution of the United States: the corner stone of federalism." The tenth was: "Thomas Jefferson: his retirement from office, the best act of his life; and the only time all parties agree, was beneficial to his country." The 11th was: "Our fellow citizens on the northern frontiers: we congratulate them on their deliverance from the inquisition of the embargo and the vexations of military law." The 16th was: "The state of Virginia the birthplace of Washington; the late election bears witness that she has not wholly forgotten his precepts." The 17th was: "The memory of Washington" (drank standing, band playing and a discharge of musketry and artillery).

1810—It has been very difficult to get information in regard to the political history of the county during the year 1810. No authentic records in the county clerk's office can be found, and newspaper files are only fragmentary for that year. It appears, however, that on the 6th of February a meeting of the electors of Steuben, Remsen, Boonville and Trenton was held at the house of John Storrs at the village of Oldenbarneveld, for the purpose of making a choice of delegates to the respective conventions. Resolutions were passed favoring the candidacy of Moss Kent of Jefferson, Joel Thompson of Chenango, and Wilhelmus Mynderre of Seneca, and Freegift Patchen of Schoharie for senators, and Thomas R. Gold for representative in Congress. One of the resolutions adopted at this meeting was as follows: "Resolved, That we, as disciples of the great and good Washington, are ready to make a tender of our property and lives in defense of our constitution and maintenance of our national independence against any foreign or domestic foe."

1811—The Republican county convention assembled February 28, 1811, at the house of Thomas Shepard in Whitestown, and adopted a resolution which read as follows: "Resolved, That Nathan Sage, Samuel Dill, Henry Wager, Thomas Skinner and William Hotchkiss be recommended to the electors of the county of Oneida, at their next election, as 'suitable characters to represent

them in the next assembly of this state.''' On the 20th of April a public meeting was held at the same place, at which resolutions were passed favoring the candidacy of DeWitt Clinton for governor and Casper M. Rouse for senator. This meeting was presided over by Apollos Cooper, and the secretary was James Sherman. At the election the federal candidate for lieutenant governor carried the county by 287, and Mr. Sanford, the federal candidate for senator, received a majority of 294. The federal candidates for assembly, Huntington, Bristol, Brayton, Storrs and Clark were elected by about 300 majority each.

1812—For several years prior to 1812 the United States had submitted to insults from Great Britain, commercial relations between the two governments were suspended, and England sent her ships of war to cruise in American waters to intercept merchant vessels and send them to England as prizes. This caused intense feeling in this country against England, and most American citizens were willing to again accept war with the mother country instead of submitting further to such insults, although it was understood that this course was fraught with great hazard. The state convention assembled in Albany on the 17th of September, 1812, of the party opposed to the war with England. The delegates from Oneida county were Morris S. Miller, Jesse Curtis, James Dean, Adam G. Mappa and James Lynch, and a committee was appointed to prepare a platform expressive of the sentiments of the Federal party concerning this grave subject. They passed a series of resolutions denouncing the war, and calling for a meeting of all persons opposed to the war to take into consideration a "common plan of operation, having for its object the restoration of peace to our degraded and afflicted country." The Federal party, calling itself the friend of peace, liberty and commerce, nominated for governor Stephen Van Rensselaer, for lieutenant governor George Huntington and for senators in the western district Simeon Ford, of Herkimer, Robert Campbell, of Otsego, and Valentine Brother, of Ontario. It was a very serious matter for a country with but twelve large war vessels and a number of small crafts, carrying all told 300 guns, to fight a government with about 900 war vessels manned by 144,000 men. England was again making effort to enlist the Iroquois Indians in the war which was deemed imminent. This question was before the people in the elections of 1810 and 1811, and, although the Federal party opposed the administration, Mr. Madison, then president, was sustained, and his supporters still kept control of both houses of Congress. In the west and south the feeling was very strong for war with England, but in New England the sentiment was the other way, and the president, feeling the great responsibility, hesitated. This gave rise to the saying in England that the United States could not be "kicked into war." The American people finally verified the old adage that "it takes a long time to make Brother Jonathan mad, but when he gets mad he is awful mad." This time came, when John C. Calhoun presented to Congress a bill declaring that war existed between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the United States of America. This bill passed the house of representatives by a vote of 79 to 49, and passed the senate by a vote of 19 to 13, and was signed by the president the same day, June 17th. The first year of the war was disastrous to the Americans on land. General Hull surrendered Detroit to the British. Captain Heald, who was in com-

mand at Fort Dearborn (now Chicago), ordered by Hull to abandon the fort and retreat to Detroit, was attacked and his party almost exterminated; and an American force under General Rensselaer was defeated and many of them taken prisoners at Lewiston, Canada. The success of the Americans, however, upon the sea, where it was least expected, gave much encouragement to the administration party. The Constitution defeated and captured the *Guerriere* and the *Java*; the *Wasp* captured the *Frolic*; the United States defeated and captured the *Macedonia*; and American privateers had wrought great havoc among British merchant vessels. In the election of that year Mr. Madison was reelected, and a majority of Congress was still with him. The experiences of the people in the Mohawk valley were not to be repeated in the war of 1812 and, except for the passage of troops through the valley and the calling of men from this locality into the army, no important military events occurred within the county during the three years of the second war for independence. Oneida county, however, furnished its quota of men for the war, and some of the officers who took prominent part in that important event. Joshua Hathaway was appointed quartermaster general of the state militia, and went to Sackett's Harbor, and Colonel Bellinger commanded the first troops from the county that went to Sackett's Harbor. In his *Annals of Oneida County*, Mr. Jones says that "all the militia of the county was called to go to Sackett's Harbor, and that the 157th regiment, usually known as the Rome regiment, commanded by Colonel Westcott, marched to that place." Among the officers of this regiment were Lieut. Colonel Joshua G. Green; Captains Rudd, Fillmore, Church, Grannis, Hinekley and Peek; the staff officers being Adjutant Samuel Beardsley, Paymaster Jay Hathaway, Surgeon Henry H. Smith. The chief military officers from this county who took part in the war of 1812 were Brigadier Generals Oliver Collins, Joseph Kirkland and Henry McNeil. General Collins took the most prominent part in the war of any officer from Oneida county. He had settled in the town of Whitesboro about 1784, and bought a large tract of land about half a mile from Whitesboro. Before he was sixteen years of age and prior to his removal to the state of New York he ran away from home and enlisted as a soldier in the war of the Revolution, but on account of his age he was brought back home. About a year later, filled with a military spirit, he again enlisted in Captain Burbank's company of artillery, and served during the war. He, therefore, had a military experience that was of great help when he was called into the service of his country the second time. At one time he had command of the post at Sackett's Harbor, and his order book on that occasion is among the valuable records in the Oneida Historical Society of Utica. He had a large family, and his descendants in many states have filled positions of great honor as governors, senators, representatives in Congress, lawyers, doctors, and were men of character and influence wherever they cast their lot. From Charles D. Adams, the eminent lawyer, still living in Utica, who is grandson of General Collins, the writer learns that none of his descendants are residents of Oneida county at this time except Mr. Adams and his family, and, so far as he knows, there are no other descendants of General Collins within the state of New York. The wife of President Taft is a great granddaughter of General Collins. The writer has not been able to ascertain just what service General Kirkland and General McNeil performed during the war.



## CHAPTER XI

1813—1823

1813—In this year a draft was ordered in Oneida and other counties in central New York. General Collins was placed in command of the soldiers raised by this conscription. He was in command of the post at Sackett's Harbor, and this was so important a post that the governor sent his aide-de-camp, Colonel Washington Irving, the eminent author, with orders to the commander to make such requisitions for militia as he might deem necessary, and the general called out the militia of Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis and Oneida counties. Oneida and Herkimer furnished 2,500 men, which with the others, gave Collins a force of about 6,000.

1814—In 1814 the situation at Sackett's Harbor was so desperate that by direction of the governor, Collins ordered out the brigade of Brigadier General Ellis and directed him "with all possible dispatch to march \* \* \* by the most direct and convenient route to Smith's Mills, twelve miles from the Harbor \* \* \* and immediately on your arrival \* \* \* report yourself to the commanding general." This was caused by a threatened attack by the British upon Sackett's Harbor, but it never occurred. Disease and a poor commissariat at the Post caused panic at one time, and there were many desertions. After Collins's return from Sackett's Harbor to Utica he ordered a court martial of the deserters, and this court was held at the New England House, which stood where the Arcade now stands. The deserters were convicted, and, despite threats of interference by violence, they were sentenced and drummed out of camp to the tune of the Rogue's March. In this year the United States government purchased lands in Rome for an arsenal, and it was completed in 1816. It was used for government purposes until about 1873, when it was sold for other purposes, and the occupation by the government ceased.

Two men of great ability and very high standing in the community were candidates for representatives in Congress in this year—Nathan Williams and Thomas R. Gold. The county, which at that time included part of what is now the county of Oswego, gave Mr. Gold a majority of 638. The candidates for the senate in the district which included Oneida county were J. I. Pendergast, B. Bicknell, C. Loomis and P. Swift of one party, and of the opposing party J. Sandford, J. Forman, V. Brother and Joseph Kirkland. The five last named received a majority in the county of about 600. The candidates for assembly were E. S. Salisbury, T. Hathaway, J. Grant, W. Lord and Luther Guiteau, upon one side, and James Lynch, R. Pettibone, J. Lay, J. Storm and Theodore Sill upon the other, the latter of whom were elected by 711 majority.



RESIDENCE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR ELIHU ROOT



HOME OF GENERAL COLLINS IN  
NEW HARTFORD



RESIDENCE OF GEN. WILLIAM FLOYD,  
WESTERNVILLE, WITH REAR AD-  
MIRAL MONTGOMERY SICARD IN  
THE YARD ABOUT TO TAKE A  
HORSEBACK RIDE



1815—The senatorial candidates of the Federal Republican party from Oneida county for the western district for the year 1815 were George Huntington of Rome, and Jared Sanford, and for members of assembly James Lynch, Richard Sanger, Isaac Brayton, Roderick Morrison and Jesse Curtis. It has been impossible to ascertain who all of the local candidates were at this election.

1816—The convention of the Federal party was held in Albany, February 15, 1816, and Rufus King was nominated for governor and George Tibbits for lieutenant governor. The county convention of this party was called for the 6th of March at Whitesboro, but it has been impossible to ascertain what was done at that meeting, as no records of it are attainable. It appears later in the Utica Patriot of May 21st that King carried the county by a majority of 435; that the Federal candidates for senator, Samuel M. Hopkins, Valentine Brother and Theodore Sill received about the same majority; that Henry R. Storrs received 278 majority for representative in Congress, and that Abram Camp, Martin Hawley, David Ambler, Wheeler Barnes and Newton March were elected to the assembly by about the same vote. The summer of 1816 was noted as being the coldest season ever known in this part of the country. Snow fell in the county several inches deep during the month of June, and crops were almost a total failure.

1817—One of the most important events which occurred in the county during the year 1817 was that pertaining to the Erie canal. Ground was broken for this great waterway at Rome July 4, 1817, and the first boat passed over the canal from Utica to Rome and return October 21, 1819. Governor Clinton, with a distinguished company of state officials and other invited guests, constituted the passengers upon this trip. It is well to state here that one of the chief scientific men who, as an engineer, had charge of the work, was John B. Jervis of Rome. There entered into politics a man of unusual ability in this year—DeWitt Clinton. He was elected governor, and received in Oneida county 2,428 votes against 43 votes, which were called "scatterings."

1818—The election of 1818 resulted in the Republican candidates carrying the county of Oneida by substantial majorities, but as the senatorial district consisted of more than Oneida county the Federal candidate, Jonas Platt, was elected; Henry R. Storrs was elected representative in Congress by 2,329 majority; the assemblymen elected seem to have been of both parties, as the successful candidates were L. Guiteau, D. P. Hoyt, T. Woodruffe, Ezekiel Bacon and Henry Huntington.

1819—In the year 1819 it seems that the parties divided, at least locally, upon no particular issue, but one ticket was called the Republican, and the other was, by the newspapers, denominated the "Tammany ticket." It is notable that as early in the history of the state as this there was supposed to be some sort of odium attached to a ticket known as the "Tammany ticket." yet, it is also notable, that the candidates in Oneida county this year upon that ticket were some of the most respected, influential and able men who ever have resided within its limits. For senators in the western district the Republicans nominated Gideon Granger and Lyman Payne, and for members of the assembly George Brayton, Charles Wiley, Luther Guiteau, Theor Woodruffe and David Bates. The Tammany ticket consisted of Philetus Swift and Nathan



Garrow for senators, and for members of assembly Joseph Allen, Benjamin Hiekoex, Samuel Beardsley, Prosper Rudd and John S. Davis. The Federalists nominated for members of assembly George Huntington, Henry McNeil, John Storrs, James Dean, Jr., and Theophilus S. Morgan. The election returns show that the votes cast for the respective candidates in Oneida county for senators were Granger 957, Payne 865, Lansing 1,186, Merrell 1,084, Swift 600 and Garrow 558. The Federal candidates for members of assembly were all elected by a plurality of nearly 1,000.

1820—The Republican convention was held at the village of Hampton, February 2, 1820, and nominated delegates to the senatorial convention of the western district, and this convention passed a series of resolutions approving the state administration and recommending the electors to support DeWitt C. Clinton as a candidate for governor, and John Taylor as candidate for lieutenant governor, and denounced the action of the portion of the legislature which had assembled at Albany in a convention and nominated Daniel D. Tompkins for governor. The opposition to Clinton was known as the "Bucktail party." The term "Bucktail" was known to designate the opponents of DeWitt Clinton, because of the fact that Tammany Hall opposed him, and some of the chief members of that organization on certain occasions wore a buck's tail in their hats. During this year a large number of public meetings were held throughout the state, for the purpose of expressing approval of the acts of DeWitt Clinton and for the denunciation of Daniel D. Tompkins, as these really two great men at this time were arrayed against each other, as leaders of the great political organizations of the day. It had been claimed that Daniel D. Tompkins had misappropriated funds, which created intense feeling throughout the state, and he was denounced unquestionably unjustly. As an illustration of the feeling against him, we quote from a communication to the Albany Register of March 3, 1820: "The leaders of the Bucktail opposition, routed and discouraged as they are by the steady and overwhelming reverses of the present winter, and determined to make one more bold and desperate push to retrieve their blasted fortunes, Daniel D. Tompkins and his \$600,000 claim—Daniel D. Tompkins with his old muskets—his basket of vouchers and his double charges—Daniel D. Tompkins, with his unprecedented defalcation is to be run hard for the first office in the gift of the people." The Republicans nominated for senators for the western district Ephraim Hart, Elijah Miles and Oliver Forward, and for members of assembly Ezekiel Bacon, Greene C. Bronson, Allen Frazer, Israel Stoddard and David S. Bates. The Federal candidates for members of assembly were Josiah Bacon, Allen Frazer, George Huntington, Joseph Kirkland and William Root. Fierce attacks were made upon Mr. Tompkins during the entire campaign, and his accounts were the subject of legislative investigation. In the Columbian Gazette of April 18th there is a violent attack upon Mr. Tompkins. The writer, among other things, says: "The question then for the electors to decide is, whether they will hurl Mr. Clinton from power, to gratify the wishes of a candidate who is his inferior in point of talents and qualifications, and who besides this decided inequality, labors under the imputation of being a defaulter to a large amount! What excuse could there be for turning out Clinton and putting in Tompkins?" This seems to be rather severe language to be used against

the vice-president of the United States. Clinton was elected by a majority of 1,454, and he carried Oneida county by 1,314. For senators Hart, Miles and Forward carried the county by about the same majority. There seems to have been a third ticket in the field, and Mr. Frazer was upon two tickets, and therefore received a much larger vote than any other of the candidates who were elected to the assembly; the other candidates of the Federal party, Bacon, Huntington, Kirkland and Root were elected to the assembly by a plurality of about 1,000, as the district at this time consisted of Oneida and a portion of Oswego county.

1821—An important event occurred in the year 1821 in the state, which was the holding of the State Constitutional Convention. The delegates to this convention from Oneida county were Ezekiel Bacon, Samuel Sidney Breese, Henry Huntington, Jonas Platt and Nathan Williams, three of whom were Clintonians and two were Democrats. At this time DeWitt Clinton was governor, and the Democrats had a majority in the Constitutional Convention. The constitution formulated by this convention removed the property qualification of voters and liberalized the constitution in many other respects, which constitution remained in effect until 1848. The county convention, which was held at Whitestown during this year, was called so as to include all voters "without regard to former political distinctions," and Joseph Kirkland was nominated for representative in Congress; the candidates for senator in the western district were Stephen Bates and Samuel M. Hopkins; and George Huntington, Greene C. Bronson, Israel Stoddard, Samuel Chandler and Peter Pratt were nominated for members of assembly, Pratt being a resident of Mexico, in that portion of Oswego county which was a portion of an assembly district with Oneida county. The canvass was somewhat bitter, and charges of fraud were made against the Bucktail party, then in power. One of the serious charges was, as it appeared to the electors of that day, that they had endeavored to "palm upon the community a statement to the effect that they had reduced the wages of members of assembly to three dollars per day," whereas, as a matter of fact, they actually received four dollars per day. Mr. Kirkland, for representative in Congress, carried the county by 1,030, and the district by 838. Hopkins and Bates, for senators, carried the county by about 900 majority, and for members of assembly, Huntington, Bronson, Stoddard, Chandler and Pratt were elected by little less than 1,000 majority in the district, and substantially the same majorities in the county.

1822—The local ticket for 1822 was nominated at a Republican convention held in Utica October 11th. This seems to have been the first county convention ever held in what is now the city of Utica. This convention resolved that George Huntington of Oneida, Westel Willoughby of Herkimer, Levi Adams of Lewis and Matthew McNair be nominated as candidates for the senate. On the 21st day of October a convention was held at Whitesboro which approved the nominations of Joseph Yates for governor; Henry Huntington for lieutenant governor; the senatorial ticket as mentioned above; Ezekiel Bacon for representative in Congress; and nominated for members of assembly Israel Stoddard, Josiah Bacon, John Billings, James Dean, Jr., and Wheeler Barnes; for sheriff, Simeon N. Dexter, and for county clerk Julius Pond. The opposing candidates of the county were for representative in Congress, Henry R. Storrs; for members of

assembly, Henry Wager, Thomas H. Hamilton, Samuel Wetmore, Uri Doolittle and James Lynch; for sheriff, John E. Hinman; for county clerk, Garrit G. Lansing and also Eliasaph Dorchester. For governor Yates carried the county by 2,653, while Huntington, for lieutenant governor, carried it by only 95, and Storrs, for representative in Congress by only 55. The candidates for senator, Beardsley, Wooster, Greenley and Bronson, carried the county by about 200; Hinman, for sheriff, was elected by 1,193; Dorchester was elected county clerk, while the assemblymen, Wager, Hamilton, Lynch, Doolittle and Wetmore, received a majority of about 400 each.

1823—The Republican county convention assembled at Whitestown October 27, 1823, and passed resolutions favoring what was known as the "Election Law." This convention nominated for members of assembly, George Huntington, John Storrs, John P. Sherwood, Theophilus Steele and Thomas E. Clark, candidates known to be favorable to such a law. The convention also recommended William Ford, of Jefferson county, as a suitable candidate for senator in the fifth senatorial district. Perley Keyes had also been put in nomination as a candidate for senator in the same district. In this canvass the principal subject before the people was the election law. It is notable that the same principle was involved at that time in the people insisting that presidential electors should be elected by the people, as is involved at the present day in the issue much debated in regard to the election of United States senators by the people instead of by the legislature. The vote on senator in Oneida county gave Keyes 2,095 and Ford 1,784; for members of assembly Wager, Allen, Grant, Cooper and Ruger were elected by an average majority of about 300.

## CHAPTER XII

1824—1839

1824—In 1824 an unusual campaign occurred in the county. A bitter fight throughout the state was being waged on a very important question, which was this: Presidential electors had been appointed by the state legislature, and the Republican party took strong ground in favor of a law providing for their election by the people. A bill had been presented in the legislature providing for such election, but had been defeated largely through the influence of Martin Van Buren. Through his influence, also, the members of the legislature had nominated Samuel Young for governor and Erastus Root for lieutenant governor. This usurpation of power by the legislature, as it was called, was resented by the people, and there was a strong sentiment in favor of the nomination of ex-governor DeWitt Clinton for the office which he had so acceptably filled before that time. The Republican state convention was called to be held September 21st at Utica. The Republican county convention, to elect delegates to the state convention, was held at the courthouse in Whitesboro September 14th. The delegates chosen to the state convention were George Brayton, David Pierson, David H. Hoyt, John Wescott and Aaron Barnes. Resolutions were adopted favoring the "Election Law." By this was meant the bill providing for the election of presidential electors by the people. The state convention assembled at Utica September 21st, and John Taylor was made chairman. The nomination of DeWitt Clinton was made unanimous and by acclamation except one vote, and James Talmadge was nominated for lieutenant governor unanimously. A committee was appointed to draft an address to the people. It seems that this was the custom at that day, rather than to lay down what was known as a platform. This committee consisted of Gerrit Smith, C. G. Haynes and John Armstrong. It made its report through its chairman, Mr. Smith, and the address was unanimously adopted by the convention. It may well be supposed that a committee with Gerrit Smith at its head would produce a paper worthy of serious consideration, and this address consisted of a powerful denunciation of the usurpation of power by the legislature and of the Van Buren party, and of the candidate it said: "That Samuel Young is in the opinion of this meeting a mere political adventurer—a usurping demagogue—a fawning office seeker and servile tool of Martin Van Buren." The address then lauded Clinton and Talmadge, and called "upon all fellow citizens to be vigilant at the polls and defeat the vain professions of selfish and impudent office seekers and support the cause of 'Freedom and the People.'" Another resolution referring to the candidates of the opposite party was as follows: "That one of these candidates is habitually intemperate, a scoffer at the Christian religion, and through his tal-



ents and official influence deplorably successful in contaminating public morals. And it is not more than the misfortune of the other candidate that he is found in such company." The campaign of 1824 was exceedingly important and bitter in the county. Henry R. Storrs had been nominated for representative in Congress by the Republican party, and for members of assembly the nominations were Joseph Kirkland, Israel Stoddard, David Pierson, Samuel Woodworth and Broughton White. The opposing ticket for Congress was James Lynch, and for members of assembly Thomas H. Hamilton, William H. Maynard, Asabel Curtis, Fortune C. White and Benjamin Hyde. At this time political discussion was not carried on through the medium of newspapers to any large extent, for the reason that the daily paper was then unknown, and other papers were few and issued at odd intervals, except, perhaps, a few weeklies. Under such circumstances the political parties and their candidates assailed each other on the rostrum and through the medium of printed circulars. Perhaps the best method of showing the exact condition which existed in this county during this notable campaign is to set forth a few of the many circulars which were issued by the respective parties and their candidates. The supporters of Clinton held a meeting in Utica, October 12th, and after adopting certain resolutions adjourned the meeting to a future day, and called the adjourned meeting by issuing the following circular:

#### REPUBLICAN MEETING OF YOUNG MEN

"At a numerous and respectable meeting of the Republican young men, of the town of Utica, convened pursuant to public notice at Col. Hooker's Long Room, on the evening of the 12th October, Mr. Samuel G. Walker was called to the chair and Mr. William Walker appointed secretary.

"On motion, it was resolved, that a committee of five be chosen to draft resolutions expressive of the sentiments of this meeting, on the nominations made at the state convention held in this town, and on those made at the county convention held at Whitesborough.

"Messrs. J. H. Ostrom, Seth Gridley, Charles R. Doolittle, J. P. Gould and J. G. Lundegreen, were then appointed as a committee, and after retiring for a sufficient length of time, returned and reported the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, That it is the duty of Republicans and free men, at all times, to express fully their opinions of those who are entrusted with the administration of public affairs, and especially so when they attempt to infringe upon those rights which have been purchased by the blood of our fathers, and secured to us by the letter and spirit of our Constitution.

"Resolved, That the denial by the Legislature of the right of suffrage, to Two Hundred and Sixty Thousand Freemen of this state, is an act of direct hostility to the rights of the people, and subversive of the free principles of our government.

"Resolved, That we disapprove of national and state legislative Caucuses.

"Resolved, That we disapprove of the nomination of Samuel Young and Erastus Root, because they received their nomination from a Caucus of that Leg-



BARON STEUBEN'S RESIDENCE IN THE TOWN OF STEUBEN, 1790



BARON STEUBEN'S MONUMENT IN THE TOWN OF STEUBEN



islature who defeated the electoral law, for the purpose of furthering the views of a favorite chieftain, who is driving a lucrative traffic in the suffrages of free-men at Washington.

“Resolved, That we concur in the nomination made by the State Convention, at Utica, of

“DEWITT CLINTON  
for Governor, and  
JAMES TALMADGE  
for Lieut. Governor,

And that we will unite our individual efforts, with the rest of our fellow citizens, in promoting their election.

“Resolved, That we approve of the nomination made in this county of

“HENRY R. STORRS,  
“For Congress, and

“JOSEPH KIRKLAND, ISRAEL STODDARD, DAVID PIERSON, SAMUEL WOODWORTH AND BROUGHTON WHITE,

“For members of Assembly, and that we will also support them at the Polls.

“Resolved, That we recommend to the young men in the several towns in this county, to call similar meetings, to adopt measures to further the election of the above candidates. And that a corresponding committee of five be appointed from this meeting for the purpose of communicating with the several towns; and that Messrs. Z. Platt, A. C. Ellinwood, O. Whipple, J. E. Warner, and Wm. Bristol, compose that committee.

“Resolved, That a committee of ten in each ward in this town be chosen, as a committee of vigilance, to further the wishes of this meeting, with power to increase their number.

“Resolved, That this meeting adjourn to meet at the same place, on the Friday evening previous to the election, at 7 o'clock.

“WM. WALKER,  
Secretary.”

SAMUEL G. WALKER,  
Chairman.

“TO THE REPUBLICAN YOUNG MEN OF ONEIDA.

“The time is near at hand when the Electors of this state are again to exercise the boasted right of choosing their rulers. It is an era always interesting to freemen; but it is peculiarly so at this period.

“A faction has grown up among us, which threatens the ultimate destruction of our civil liberties. That faction is composed of unprincipled office holders and greedy office seekers, whose object is self aggrandizement; and who would sacrifice their very country rather than fail in the accomplishment of their ambitious and wicked purposes.

“The present contest is literally between Republicans and factionists—between the people and the people's enemies. The people claim the right of nominating their own rulers. The factionists deny to them that right. The people demand the right of choosing their own presidential electors. The factionists answer, “The people are not to be trusted.” In such a warfare, it is



not only the privilege, but it is the duty of every good citizen to be up and doing. To be inactive is to be criminal.

"The constitution of these United States, that safeguard of our rights, was purchased at too high a price, to be surrendered now without a struggle. That constitution has been not only disregarded but insulted by our last state legislature. That legislature withheld from the people the choice of presidential electors; and in doing so, they violated their solemn pledges, and betrayed their constituents. A caucus of that same legislature have nominated a Governor and Lieut. Governor, who for their political sins and private vices, are obnoxious to the great mass of electors.

"The caucus candidates for Congress and assembly, in this county, have been brought forward to carry into effect the schemes of a favorite chieftain, who is driving a political traffic, at Washington, in the suffrages of freemen. Demagogues may tell you that they are friendly to the electoral law. But be on your guard! they are wolves in sheep's clothing. The people's candidates are known to you all—they have been long tried—they are men of talents—they are honest and sober men—they are firm and ardent supporters of the people's rights—they are pledged to support and defend these rights, and will not violate their pledges.

"Young Men of Oneida! Much is expected of us at the ensuing election. We can, and we ought to do much. Our national prosperity, and our national glory—our civil institutions, which are deservedly our pride and our boast—in a word, all the blessings which we enjoy in this happy republic, were won for us by the labors, and sufferings, and blood of our fathers. Let it be the business of their sons to protect and preserve and perpetuate them."

This circular, together with many others in the possession of the writer which will be hereafter referred to, was found among the valuable papers of Stalham Williams, who lived to be 99 years and 6 months of age, and was for fifty years treasurer of the Utica Savings Bank.

The other party, not being backward in the issuing of circulars and in its assault upon its opponents, issued the following circular from Albany county, but it was distributed throughout the entire state.

#### "GRATUITOUS SERVICES

"To the People of the State of New York.

"Fellow Citizens: Much has been said of the gratuitous services of DeWitt Clinton as a Canal Commissioner, especially since his removal from that station by James Talmadge, and others, who thought him undeserving of the place. When the claims of Mr. Clinton in this respect, are examined, they will be found as flimsy as his other pretensions to the favor of the people. A plain statement of undeniable facts, derived from authentic sources, will place this subject in a just light.

"DeWitt Clinton was appointed a canal commissioner on the 13th of March, 1810. As nothing further was then contemplated than the procuring of surveys and other sources of information, no salary was attached to the office, BUT ALL

THE EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSIONERS AND THEIR AGENTS, WERE FULLY PAID BY THE STATE, and large sums were from time to time appropriated for that purpose. From 1810 to 1816, very little was done by the Board. In 1816 a new board was organized, of which Mr. Clinton was appointed president,—(in which place he continued till April last)—and Twenty Thousand Dollars were appropriated to defray the expenses of the commissioners and their agents. In 1817 the legislature provided for the commencement of the canals, and provision was subsequently made, fixing the salaries of the acting canal commissioners, while the expenses of the others continued to be defrayed as before. Mr. Clinton never was an acting commissioner; and on this account, like Gouverneur Morris, Stephen VanRensselaer, and others of his colleagues, he received no salary, but his expenses while traveling, or otherwise engaged in the business, were fully paid by the state. As the monies appropriated for this purpose were generally paid to the whole board, and accounted for in gross, we have not been able, except in a few cases, to ascertain how much was paid to Mr. Clinton for his individual expenses. It appears by the accounts rendered to the state, that in a few instances he separately received compensation for his individual expenses, and on referring to them, the gross imposition of the clamor about Gratuitous Services will be clearly seen. Look at them, fellow-citizens, for yourselves.

“On the 23d of January, 1812, he received Three Hundred Dollars for his *own* expenses ‘in going to, staying at, and returning from LANCASTER and Washington.’ This occupied him, according to his own account, *thirty-five days*, making a compensation of nearly Nine Dollars per day! which is *only* THREE TIMES as much as the pay of the members of the legislature!!

“In 1814 he received Two Hundred and Sixty-one Dollars for his expenses in ‘going to, staying at, and returning from Albany.’ This jaunt took, according to his own account, from the 27th of February to the 30th of March, 1814, being *thirty-one days*, and giving a compensation of *only* about Eight Dollars and Fifty Cents per day!!

“In 1816 he received Two Hundred Dollars for his expenses in ‘going to, staying at, and returning from Albany.’ This jaunt took him from some time in the beginning of February, 1816, to about the 15th of March, say at the most, *forty days*, giving the *trifling* compensation of Five Dollars per day!!

“From these instances, all of which appear on the public records, some idea may be formed of the liberal allowances made by the state to Mr. Clinton for his services as a canal commissioner, and instead of rendering them GRATUITOUSLY, as has been pretended, it is plain that he has received from the people of New York, a *liberal equivalent*.

“*But this is not all.* While Mr. Clinton was a canal commissioner, he actually received from the people of this state, the enormous sum of SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS from the profits of OTHER OFFICES. The following calculation will show this.

“The first canal board was organized, as has been said, in March, 1810. In 1810, DeWitt Clinton received for his services as state senator, at least \$400.

“In 1811 he was appointed Mayor of New York, an office which he had previously held for several years, and to which he was so much wedded, that although he held the office of *state senator*, the venerable Col. Marinus Willet

was removed from the mayoralty to make way for him. This was then the best office in the state, and one of the best in the Union. It was estimated to be worth from FIFTEEN to TWENTY *thousand dollars* per annum! and so lucrative had it become, that in 1813, the legislature provided that the mayor should not be allowed more than \$7,000 per annum, and that the remainder of the fees of office should be paid to the city. To keep within bounds we put down the office, previous to the fixing of the salary, at \$15,000 per annum. By deserting the Republican party, and making terms with the federalists, he succeeded in holding this office until 1815, when he was removed by a republican council, upon the advice of Ambrose Spenceer and others of his present supporters.

"From 1811 to 1813 is two years, at \$15,000 per annum is.....\$30,000

"From 1813 to 1815 is 2 years, at \$7,000 per annum..... 14,000

"In 1811 he was elected lieutenant-governor, which he held *two* years, and for which he received at least..... 1,200

"From 1815 to 1817 he held no office but that of canal commissioner, and for all his expenses in that capacity was fully indemnified, as has been already stated.

"In 1817 he was elected Governor by the republican party, on his professions of repentance and promises of amendment, and he received for salary, from the 1st July, 1817, to the 1st April, 1820, 2 years and 9 months, at the rate of \$7,000 per annum..... 19,250

"For salary as Governor from the 1st April, 1820, to the 1st of April 1821, one year, at \$5,000 per annum..... 5,000

"For salary as Governor, from the 1st April, 1821 to the 1st of January, 1823, 1 year and 9 months, at \$4,000 per annum..... 7,000

MAKING THE ENORMOUS SUM OF .....\$76,650  
actually received by DeWitt Clinton, for public services, while he was a Canal Commissioner, besides being furnished, while governor, with a dwelling house, the rent and taxes of which were paid by the state! Well, then, might he afford to make an occasional visit to the line of the Canal, and to attend the sittings of the Board, especially when his expenses on all such occasions, *were amply provided for by the state*. Away, then, with the pretence of his GRATUITOUS SERVICES! He has not only been munificently remunerated for every moment he has devoted to the public business, but he has actually received MORE MONEY from the people of New York, for the emolument of office, *than any other man in the state*. He has literally fattened on the public bounty. He has not only held the most lucrative stations in the gift of the people, but, for a great portion of his life, so greedy has been his appetite for power and wealth, that he has insisted on having TWO OR THREE OFFICES AT A TIME. To prove these assertions still more clearly, let us carry our calculations a little farther back:

The above statement shows that since the 13th March, 1810, he has received, besides compensation for his expenses, etc., as canal commissioner, the sum of .....\$76,650

Previous to that time he had received as follows, viz.: Before 1797, as private secretary of the governor, secretary of the University, and of the Board of Fortifications, at least..... 2,000



In 1797, as member of the assembly, at least .....	300
From 1798 to 1802, as state senator, 4 years, at least.....	1,400
In 1802, as United States' Senator, say .....	1,000
From October, 1803, to March, 1807, as mayor of New York, 3 years and 5 months, at \$15,000 per annum .....	51,250
From 1805 to 1809, as state senator, 4 years, about.....	1,600
From March, 1808 to March, 1810, as mayor of New York,, 2 years, at \$15,000 per annum .....	30,000
In 1810, as state senator .....	400
MAKING THE IMMENSE SUM OF.....	<hr/> \$164,000

164,600 DOLLARS! ! !

PAID TO DEWITT CLINTON OUT OF THE POCKETS OF THE PEOPLE OF THIS STATE, for the Offices he has held, besides paying most liberally, all his expenses as Canal Commisioner, and besides furnishing him with a splendid dwelling house, for 5 years and 9 months, at a rent, for a part of the time, of \$2,000 and the residue at \$1,200 a year! ! ! He is now about fifty years of age, and has actually received from the public, since he was *one and twenty*, an average of nearly Five Thousand Dollars a year; a sum equal to the whole estate, for which many an honest elector toils for a whole lifetime. And yet, this is the man whose GRATUITOUS SERVICES are gravely put forth before the people, as entitling him to the first station in their gift! ! ! And this, too, is the man, who, two years ago, affected to decline a reelection as governor, on the republican principle of ROTATION IN OFFICE! ! ! The history of his life shows that, in his opinion, ROTATION IN OFFICE, means *DeWitt Clinton all the while*, or at least every other time.

“People of the State of New York! The facts we have stated are undeniable. We challenge our opponents to contradict them if they dare, to disprove them if they can. We have thought it our duty to lay them before you, in order to counteract the misrepresentations of those restless and aspiring demagogues who are now striving to prostrate the democratic party. Their object is not to promote your interests, or to extend your rights; it is to secure their own aggrandizement. You found them faithless to you during the war; they opposed the calling of a convention; they resisted the extension of the elective franchise; they were hostile to the new constitution. Their pretenses to republicanism are hypocritical; their pretended ‘love of the people’ is mere sound; their moving principle, ‘UNCHASTENED AMBITION’; their sole aim, the attainment of POWER. All this you know, and knowing this, we trust you will give them, at the polls, the reception they deserve. Albany, October 15, 1824.

“By order of the General Republican Committee of the City of Albany.

PHILIP PHIELPS,  
Secretary.”

ESTES HOWE,  
Chairman.



In answer to this the Clinton party issued the following circular:

“BEWARE OF FRAUD!

“THE ALBANY REGENCY and their coadjutors are making their last desperate effort to prop their tottering cause. They have this day dispatched into every part of the county, loads of hand bills, fraught with the basest falsehoods and calumnies, and we already hear they chuckle in their sleeves at the anticipated success of their frauds, in imposing upon the PEOPLE: YES, ELECTORS OF ONEIDA, A PEOPLE who are impudently told by these desperadoes “*have not wisdom and virtue enough to appoint their electors of president or nominate their state officers.*

“FREEMEN OF ONEIDA! One bold effort on your part will forever hereafter save you from the insults of this proud Junto, and crush to atoms their fallen hopes. ON MONDAY NEXT THE POLLS OF ELECTION WILL OPEN; rally to a man, and by your united suffrages, quiet once more the tumults which have too long distracted and degraded this great State.

“Who is so blind as not to see, that the dearest rights of the People have been basely assailed? Who so deaf, that he does *not* hear the cries of the People for a redress of their grievances? Who so regardless of the cause of freemen that he will not make one effort to annihilate a corrupt combination of factionists, whose motto is SELF AGGRANDIZEMENT! and who profane the hours allotted to repose, by their unhallowed machinations and secret plans, to foist themselves into power over the ruins of all that is pure in our excellent republican institutions, and who, the more effectually to deceive the unsuspecting, have assumed our name and impudently pretend to profess our sentiments? Let the ballot boxes solemnly pronounce the answer, NONE! ! ! Utica, October 24, 1824.”

A very interesting incident occurred in this campaign at Hampton in the town of Westmoreland. It is somewhat difficult to understand the preliminaries to the meeting that was held there, but it would appear that a meeting had been called at Hallock's in that village for the 23d day of October by the opponents of the Clinton party, or that Mr. Dauby, then the political boss of the Van Buren party, had engaged the hall in which the meeting was to be held, and that the meeting had been called by the regular Republican party, which was in reality the Clinton party, and that Mr. Dauby engaged the hall to prevent the meeting being held. However that may be, the Clinton supporters assembled in great numbers at the hall and took possession, which provoked a bitter contest, and the sheriff was called from Utica to bring peace out of the discord. The Utica Observer, which contained one side of the controversy, cannot be found, as the entire files were burned, but a circular was issued by the Clinton party in explanation of this meeting. It will be borne in mind that the intense feeling which existed between the parties at this time arose over the Election Law, that is, the Clinton party advocating the election of presidential electors by the people, and the other party, which had opposed it, preventing the law being passed in the legislature, made pretence to be for it or against it, as the circumstances required. The circular issued by the Clinton party in explanation of the Hampton meeting is as follows:

## "FALSEHOOD EXPOSED!"

"Under the editorial head, in the last 'Observer,' an account is given of the meeting of *Republican young men* held at Hampton on the 23d inst. That account is a *tissue of falsehood*, from beginning to end; and was designed for electioneering effect in the remote parts of the county. But we do not charge *Mr. Dauby as the author* of these falsehoods; for although he is the ostensible editor, he has not the control of his own press;—and while we pity the man whose circumstances or feelings have induced him to assume a responsibility where he has no power, we cannot but denounce the malicious slanderers, who, protected by this disguise, ply their trade of calumny. But according to *Noah's* code of ethics, "*all is fair in politics.*" And everybody knows that a coward can print what he *dare not utter*.

"The facts in relation to that meeting are as follows:—A notice was published in the 'Columbian Gazette' of a meeting at Hallock's, in Hampton, on the 23d inst. of the 'Republican Young Men of Oneida, friendly to the Electoral Law.' We supposed this invitation *meant* what it *purported*; we considered it as addressed to ourselves, and we attended accordingly.

"On arriving at Hallock's, we told the bar-keeper, (the landlord being absent) that we had come to attend the meeting as advertised, and requested him to conduct us into the room designed for that purpose. He did so, and did not pretend that the room was otherwise engaged. The meeting then assembled in Hallock's large room to the number of 187. There were 36 from Utica and the remaining 152 were from the various towns in the county.

"The friends of the Electoral Law, thus assembled, and just proceeding upon the business of the meeting, were interrupted by the intrusion of 15 or 20 individuals, who, in a noisy and indecent manner, declared that the room was engaged to Mr. Dauby; and that the meeting must leave it. Mr. Hallock (the landlord) disgracefully lent himself to their views, and falsely stated that he had so engaged the room, and that it should not be used for a *public meeting*.

At this moment two young men of their party, who had been sent to advise with Judge Enos, rushed into the room, and declared that unless the meeting surrendered immediate possession to Mr. Dauby, they would procure a warrant from a *Judge*, and we should be put out by force of law. They had, in the meantime, sent an express to Utica, for the Sheriff, who soon after arrived, with his trusty friend, Colonel Honiele, to carry this *judicial threat* into execution.

"We expostulated, and we reasoned with them; we told them we had come as *Republicans*, to express our sentiments upon the *Electoral Law*; and invited them to unite with us. They answered us with insults, and with threats of violence. We then proposed having separate meetings, and appointing Committees of Conference; and if it should be found that we accorded in sentiment upon the Electoral Law, that we should then unite our meetings; they would not listen to this fair offer, but persisted in their billingsgate abuse and threats of outrage.

"Despairing of effecting a compromise, we organized our meeting, and peaceably adjourned to the house of Mr. S. Ray, and there accomplished the business for which we had assembled.

"This is a simple and true statement of the facts. If we had gone to Hampton (as the 'Observer' declares) for riotous purposes, we surely would not have yielded the possession of the room. We were *six to one* their superiors in numbers; and our very forbearance towards them proves the justness of our cause, and the honesty of our intent.

"*They* were turbulent, factious and insolent in the extreme. We had assembled as Republican Young Men to assert the rights of the people; and when we discovered that we could not do it at Hallock's, *for the mob*, we retired to Ray's.

#### THE REPUBLICAN YOUNG MEN OF ONEIDA.

October 28, 1824."

The Clinton party was successful in the county, carrying it against Young by 1329, and Clinton was elected governor of the state. The majority for George Brayton, senator, was 1377; for Henry R. Storrs, representative in Congress, 1052; and the vote of the town of Steuben was rejected as defective; for members of Assembly, Joseph Kirkland, Israel Stoddard, David Pierson, Samuel Woodworth and Broughton White were elected by a majority of about 1,100.

During this year Lafayette visited the United States, and was received everywhere with great enthusiasm, and the gratitude of the American people for his services during the Revolution showed itself wherever the illustrious Frenchman went.

1825—The presidential electors appointed by the legislature at its 1825 session held the balance of power, and as they did not agree, great difficulty was encountered in perfecting the election. The candidates were John Quincy Adams, William Crawford of Georgia, and Henry Clay. There being no election by the people, the election was thrown into the House of Representatives. There were 34 Republicans in Congress from New York, 17 of whom favored John Quincy Adams and 16 opposed him, while Stephen VanRensselaer was doubtful and would not declare himself in favor of any candidate. It was of the utmost importance how he should vote, because, if he voted against Mr. Adams, the Republicans would be a tie and the vote of New York could not be counted, while, if he voted for Mr. Adams, it would give him a majority of states and would make him president. It was not known until the vote was cast what Mr. VanRensselaer's position was, but on the appointed day he walked into the House of Representatives, took his seat among the New York Congressmen, cast the vote, and when it was counted it was found that he had voted for Mr. Adams, and Mr. Adams was declared duly elected president of the United States. The local campaign in this year was without special interest, and the Oneida Observer of November 20 says that its party did well, but it might have done better. This paper reports the election as follows: For state senators, Gerrit Smith 3,831 votes, and Charles Stebbins 2,960 votes; for assemblymen, Theodore Sill, Lorenzo Hull, Israel Stoddard, Aaron Barnes and Russell Clark were elected by about 1,000 majority over Greene C. Bronson, Thomas H. Hamilton, Linns Parker, Theor Woodruffe and Samuel Mott.

1826—The Whig state convention was held in Utica in September of this year. The Bucktails held their convention at Herkimer. The principal issue in the campaign was for or against Clinton. The candidate of the Republican





STATE CUSTODIAL ASYLUM  
(FOR FEEBLE-MINDED)



STATE MASONIC HOME, UTICA



ST. VINCENT'S PROTECTORATE,  
UTICA



HOME FOR AGED MEN AND  
COUPLES, UTICA



CENTRAL NEW YORK INSTITUTE  
FOR DEAF MUTES, ROME



ONEIDA COUNTY HOSPITAL  
(FOR INDIGENT PEOPLE)



THE  
PUBLISHED  
ASSOCIATION  
FILDER  
R

party for governor was DeWitt Clinton, for lieutenant governor, Henry Huntington; the candidate of the opposing party for governor was William B. Rochester, and for lieutenant governor Nathaniel Pitcher. The Republican county convention was held at Hampton on October 14, and the following ticket was nominated: For senators S. Stoddard and James McVickar; for representative in Congress, Henry R. Storrs; for assemblymen, Theodore Sill, Winthrop H. Chandler, Benjamin P. Johnson, John Billings and John Parker. Clinton carried the county by 1,108 and Huntington by 1,078. It has been impossible from the records to ascertain who the opposing local candidates were at this election. Truman Enos was the senator elected from this district.

1827—In 1827 the Republican convention was held at the house of S. Ray at Hampton. Nathan Adams presided and Charles P. Kirkland acted as secretary. A resolution was adopted approving the selection of Lauren Ford of Herkimer as a candidate for senator from the fifth district, and for members of assembly the following persons were nominated: William Clark of Utica, Israel Stoddard of Camden, Gardiner Avery of Paris, Benjamin P. Johnson of Rome, and John Mappa of Boonville. A strong address was prepared and presented to the voters advocating the election of the candidates nominated at this convention. The opposing candidate for senator was Nathaniel S. Benton, and for members of assembly S. Sidney Breese, Gardiner Avery, William Clark, Eli Savage and Benjamin P. Johnson. Ford was elected senator by a majority of 100, and Breese, Avery, Clark, Savage and Johnson were elected to the assembly by a majority of about 200.

1828—The national Republicans, or the party which favored the administration of President Adams, held its state convention at Utica, July 22, 1828. Smith Thompson was nominated for governor, and Francis Granger for lieutenant governor. The Anti-Masonic convention met also in Utica, and nominated Francis Granger for governor and John C. Crary for lieutenant governor, but Granger declined this nomination, and Solomon Southwick was substituted on that ticket in Granger's place. The State Administration party met at Herkimer and nominated Martin VanBuren for governor and Enos T. Throop for lieutenant governor. For the first time a nomination was made for a presidential elector, as prior to this time presidential electors had been appointed by the legislature, and a law had been passed providing that they be elected by districts. This was only in operation for one election, and Ebenezer B. Sherman of Utica was the elector nominated by the Republicans for that office. At this time there were two parties, known as the Republican party and the Jackson party, and the contest between them was very bitter. A large meeting of young men was held at the inn of O. Foot at Vernon Center on the 2d day of August for the purpose of sending delegates to the state convention of Young Men to be held in Utica, on the 12th of August. This convention passed a series of resolutions, among which was the following: "Resolved, That in our endeavors to promote the election of our candidates we will not circulate falsehoods as our opponents do. Nor will General Jackson threaten to cut off their ears." The Republican county convention was held at Whitestown on the 9th of October, and Henry R. Storrs was nominated for Congress, Kellogg Hurlburt for sheriff, John H. Ostrom for county clerk; and for members of assembly,

Reuben Bacon of Sangerfield, Fortune C. White of Whitestown, John Parker of Vienna, Benjamin P. Johnson of Rome and Thomas H. Hamilton of Steuben. The nomination of William H. Maynard for senator was approved. There was a continuous attack upon Andrew Jackson through the entire campaign of the most bitter character. Directly under the Republican ticket there were given reasons why he ought not to be elected president, among which were the following: He said "our government ought to be damned," and that we "ought to have a standing army of upwards of 100,000 men," and that in 1814 he had said that Mr. Madison was unfit for president for the horrid reason that he was "too much of a philosopher to look on blood and carnage with composure." VanBuren was elected governor, but Thompson carried the county by 607, and the presidential elector, Ebenezer B. Sherman carried the county by about the same majority. Storrs was elected to Congress, Maynard to the senate, and Bacon, Johnson, Savage, Tower and Fortune C. White to the Assembly. The local fight centered principally upon the election of sheriff, and circulars were issued pro and con by John E. Hinman and Kellogg Hurlburt. A personal attack was made upon Mr. Hinman, and forgery, perjury and other crimes were set forth in these respective circulars. One of them, dated November 1, and signed by David Pierson, chairman of the Republican committee, among other things said: "Fellow citizens! If there ever was a case which merited your indignation this is one. If you have never before understood the real character of John E. Hinman, this exposure presents him to your view, and you who will yet vote for him, must reconcile it to your consciences and to your sense of propriety and decency as well as you can." It would appear that a large number of voters of the county reconciled themselves to their consciences, as Mr. Hinman was elected by a substantial majority.

1829—During the year 1829 intense excitement prevailed throughout the state upon the subject of Free Masonry. So bitter was the feeling that the political parties divided upon that question, and candidates were nominated by the Anti-Masonic party throughout the state. In the county of Oneida there were a great number of tickets in the field, as follows: For senator—Anti-Masonic ticket, Edward Bancroft of Lewis; Federal Jackson Anti-Tariff ticket, Aloit Bronson of Oswego; Mechanics' ticket, Edward Bancroft. For members of assembly—Republican ticket, Benjamin P. Johnson of Rome, David Pierson of Verona, John Storrs of Trenton, John Humaston of Vienna and Aaron Barnes of Deerfield; Anti-Masonic ticket, Thomas R. Palmer of New Hartford, Stephen Bridgman, Jr., of Vernon, James Dean of Utica, Benjamin Hyde of Annsville, and William Hubbard of Trenton; Federal Jackson Anti-Tariff ticket, Eli Savage of New Hartford, Elisha Pettibone of Vernon, and Aaron Comstock of Western; Mechanics' ticket, Aaron Barnes, Eli Savage, James Dean, Itha Thomson and John Humaston. The public prints attainable at this time do not give the remainder of the tickets nominated by the respective parties. It seems that William H. Maynard was elected to the senate, and Aaron Comstock, Linus Parker, Elisha Pettibone, Eli Savage and Itha Thompson members of assembly.

1830—In this year the Whig party nominated Francis Granger for governor and Samuel Stevens for lieutenant governor; S. Newton Dexter was nominated

for representative in Congress. The Bucktails met at Herkimer and nominated Enos P. Throop for governor and Edward P. Livingstone for lieutenant governor. A convention of farmers, mechanics and workmen of the county met at Whitesboro, and nominated for representative in Congress Fortune C. White, and for assembly Gardiner Avery, John J. Knox, John Storrs, Aaron Barnes and David Pierson. Nehemiah Huntington, Ephraim Hart and Henry A. Foster were candidates for the senate. The Democratic candidate for representative in Congress was Samuel Beardsley, and for members of assembly Reuben Bettis, Aaron Comstock, David Moulton, Riley Shepard and John F. Trowbridge. Throop carried the county for governor by a majority of 2,550, Foster by nearly the same majority for senator, and Samuel Beardsley by about the same majority for representative in Congress. The following candidates were elected to the assembly: Aaron Comstock, Reuben Bettis, Riley Shepard, John F. Trowbridge and David Moulton, by about 1,300 plurality.

1831—In this year the Anti-Masonic party felt strong enough to make a nomination for the presidency for 1832, and named William Wirt of Maryland for president, and Amos Ellmaker of Pennsylvania for vice president; Thomas Beekman of Madison for senator, Kellogg Hurlburt of Utica for sheriff, James H. Collins of Verona for county clerk, and for members of assembly, James Platt, William Rollo, Alexander Whaley, Thomas R. Pahner and Eliphaz B. Barton. The opposing parties had nominated Robert Lansing for senator, Samuel M. Mott for sheriff, John H. Ostrom and George Brown for county clerk, and for members of assembly, Eliphaz B. Barton, David Moulton, Lemuel Hough, Nathaniel Fitch and Rutger B. Miller. The official canvass gave Robert Lansing for senator, 1,562 majority, Samuel M. Mott, for sheriff, 950 majority, George Brown for county clerk, about 500 plurality, and Daniel Twitchell, David Moulton, Lemuel Hough, Nathaniel Fitch and Rutger B. Miller about the same majority.

1832—The national campaign of 1832 is known as the one without an issue. The agitation of the slavery question had brought about the great debate between Webster and Hayne, and this was for the next thirty years to be the paramount question before the people of the United States, although for the time being it was held in abeyance. The Anti-Masonic convention was held in Utica, June 21, 1832, and nominated Francis Granger for governor, and Samuel Stevens for lieutenant governor. The American party adopted Granger and Stevens, and James Kent and John C. Spencer as presidential electors at large; the senatorial candidate was Nathan Hall of Madison; for representative in Congress, Charles P. Kirkland of Oneida, and Peter Sken of Oswego; and for members of assembly James Platt, Warren Converse, George Manchester, William Park and John Williams. The opposing candidates were Henry A. Foster for senator, Samuel Beardsley for member of Congress, and for members of assembly, Ichabod C. Baker, Levi Buckingham, John Dewey, Squire Utley and David Wager. The county gave a majority for William L. Marcy for governor of 546, and gave the same majority for the electoral ticket headed by Edward P. Livingstone; Samuel Beardsley was elected to Congress by about the same majority, and John G. Stower, for senator, carried the county by a vote of 569; Henry A. Foster carried the senatorial district, while Ichabod C. Baker, Levi Buckingham, John



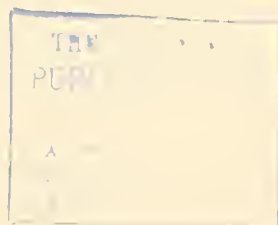
Dewey, Squire Utley and David Wager were elected to the assembly. The state gave Marey a majority of a little over 10,000, and the Jackson presidential electors carried the state by about the same majority.

1833—During the political campaign of 1833 the Republicans and Anti-Masonic parties united, and nominated for senator in the fifth district William Williams. For members of assembly on the ticket of the Oneida Democrats were Chester Hayden, Benjamin P. Johnson, John Dewey, Robert I. Norris and Jonathan Hubbard. On the ticket known as the Utica Regency were Pomroy Jones, Israel Parker, Itha Thompson, Aaron Stafford and Hiram Shays. A bitter fight was made against what was known as the Utica Regency, and in the *Elucidator* of October 22 there is a proclamation, ostensibly issued in burlesque form by the Regency, reversing the excommunication of one George Brown, "who hath since then been languishing in spirit and hath manifested deep humiliation inasmuch that he hath implored our gracious pardon, and hath moreover condescended to kiss the great toe of our chief autoerat." Francis Seger, candidate for senator, carried the county by 4,972, and Itha Thompson, Hiram Shays, Israel S. Parker, Pomroy Jones and Aaron Stafford received about 1,000 majority for members of assembly.

1834—A convention was held in Syracuse in August, 1834, and the term "Whig" was first applied to the new party, which made the nomination at that time of William H. Seward for governor. This was the first entry of Mr. Seward into what might be called national politics, for, from this time forward, he became a very important element in conventions and in shaping the thought of the people of this country. He was a man of unusual acquirements, of great facility with the pen, an accomplished lawyer, who had commenced practice in the city of Utica, but after about a year he removed to Auburn and spent his days there. Silas N. Stillwell was the candidate of this party for lieutenant governor. The candidates of the Democratic party were William L. Marey for governor, and John Tracy for lieutenant governor. The local ticket of the Republican party at that time was for senator of the fifth district, Abijah Beekwith; for member of Congress, Samuel Beardsley; for sheriff, Erastus Willard; for county clerk, John D. Leland, and for members of assembly, Amos Woodworth, David Wager, Dan P. Cadwell, Merritt Brooks and Riley Shepard. During this campaign and on the 29th day of October a largely attended meeting of Irish Adopted Citizens was held in Utica. It seems that handbills had been circulated throughout the city signed by a few Irishmen claiming to represent the sentiment of the Irish, and asking the support of the VanBuren ticket. This was resented by the large mass of Irishmen, and this meeting was called to denounce the procedure. Among other resolutions passed by this largely attended meeting was the following: "Resolved, That the Whigs have proved their confidence and friendship for the Irish citizens both in this city and elsewhere, by placing them in important trusts, and more recently by placing on their congressional ticket, William Sampson, the co-patriot of Emmett, and a distinguished native of Ireland, resolved that the Irish electors did not wear the collar in their own country and will not in this." These resolutions were published and set forth in a flaming circular signed by a large number of Irishmen, with John Queal as chairman and James McDonough as secretary.



POLICE OFFICE, UTICA



William L. Marcy was elected governor against William H. Seward, and carried the county of Oneida by a majority of 366; Samuel Beardsley was elected representative in Congress; Henry A. Foster, senator; Erastus Willard, sheriff; and Merritt Brooks, Dan P. Cadwell, Riley Shepard, David Wager and Amos Woodworth were elected members of assembly by substantial majorities.

1835—It was during the year 1835 that the agitation of the slavery question assumed great proportions, and Utica was a center of the excitement. It was attempted to hold meetings at different places to further the cause of the freedom of the slaves, and meetings had been held in the First Presbyterian Church in Utica favoring the American Colonization Society. These meetings had created intense excitement, and a convention of the Anti-Slavery Society was called to be held October 21, in Utica. On September 3 a meeting of prominent citizens was held at the court house in Utica, and the Utica Observer of September 8, gives a report of this meeting. It states that the courthouse was crowded, and that many were unable to obtain admission. The meeting was addressed by Hon. Samuel Beardsley, Joshua A. Spencer and Ephraim Hart. A motion was made for the appointment of a committee to report the officers of the meeting. The committee reported Hon. Joseph Kirkland, as president; Hon. Henry Seymour, Hiram Denio, Chester Hayden, Gardiner Traey, Rudolph Snyder, John C. Devereux, Thomas H. Hubbard, Kellogg Hurlburt, Thomas Goodsell and E. S. Barnum as vice presidents; Theodore Pomeroy, John M'Call, Joshua N. Church and David Wager as secretaries. A committee was appointed to draft resolutions, which made its report, and the resolutions were unanimously adopted. The resolutions are too lengthy to be quoted in full, but one of them was as follows: "Resolved, that the relation of master and slave having been constitutionally recognized, can in no way be impaired or affected by the general government; that, therefore, all attempts to dissolve their relations through the medium of public meetings and publications can only tend to exasperate one portion of the union, and eventually to overthrow the glorious fabric of our national confederacy." The meeting also resolved that "we will in every lawful way, by public meetings, through the presses, and by our individual efforts oppose the measures of the Abolitionists, believing that if carried into effect the union of the states will be broken into pieces." Dr. Bagg, in his Memorial History of Utica, on page 224 gives an account of the meetings that were held, and attempts to palliate the acts of the citizens who undertook to prevent the holding of the Anti-Slavery convention. We do not think he presents the situation in its true light, for, as a matter of fact, it is undisputable that the meeting to be held was for the sole purpose of the discussion of the question of slavery; that no injury was threatened or thought of, so far as the facts show, to any person either north or south, but that, by discussion of the question, the people might be brought to a true realization of what slavery was, and that such means should be taken as would result in the freedom of the colored race in this country. The fact that the mayor of the city and prominent citizens of both parties opposed the holding of this convention does not in any way change the situation. Truth is paramount to position or social standing, and it was truth that actuated the law abiding citizen who undertook to hold a meeting for the expression of their views. This convention assembled at the Bleecker street church, and these



"prominent citizens," who had taken part in the meeting, repaired, headed by the chairman of the committee, Samuel Beardsley, to the church, and demanded that this meeting be abandoned. To quote from Dr. Bagg, who gives it as rosy a color as possible for the "prominent citizens," he says after the committee had carried out these instructions it returned, and "during the delay thus alluded to there were undoubtedly some lively scenes inside the church. The presence of the committee was an incentive to whatever rowdy element was in the church, as well as on the outside, to create a disturbance; there was much noise, and some threats of violence, hymn books and other missiles were tossed about, and some personal assaults, in one of which Spencer Kellogg's coat was torn from his back \* \* \* The excitement was intense, and it was remarkable that a destructive riot did not follow \* \* \* Gerrit Smith was a spectator. When the necessity of breaking up the convention became apparent, he invited the people to go home with him, where they would find a warm welcome. About four hundred accepted the invitation, and the work of the convention was finished at Peterboro." Up to that time Gerrit Smith was not an ardent supporter of emancipation, but, true to the old saying that "the blood of the martyr is the seed of the church," the outrages at the Utica convention were the seed that resulted in the conversion of Gerrit Smith and made him one of the foremost champions of the cause which the prominent citizens of Utica would have smothered at its very birth. In the election of this year, Henry A. Foster was again elected to the senate, and Henry Graves, John W. Hale, William Knight, Jared C. Pettibone and John Stryker were elected to the assembly. The palliating circumstance, it would seem, for the acts of these prominent and reputable citizens was they feared the disruption of the union in consequence of the agitation of the slavery question. Many of them had, undoubtedly, experienced that which we of the present day know little of, and that is that slavery had existed in their midst. What would be thought to-day of an advertisement like one in the Utica Patriot of April 18, 1815—"For Sale. Two years and five months service of a female slave (a woman). Inquire at this office. Utica, March 21."

1836—The Democratic candidate for president in this year was Martin VanBuren. The Whig party was divided, and the northern wing of this party nominated William Henry Harrison, while the southern wing nominated Hugh L. White of Tennessee. The Democratic candidate for governor was William L. Marey, and the Whig candidate was Jesse Buell, with Gamaliel H. Barstow for lieutenant governor. It was a foregone conclusion, when the Whig party divided, that VanBuren would be elected and that the state of New York would give a Democratic majority. The county of Oneida gave Marey 2,054 plurality, and the electoral ticket and the county officers generally about the same. The VanBuren ticket carried the state of New York by 29,474. Samuel Beardsley was elected representative in Congress, and Levi Buckingham, John I. Cook, Lester N. Fowler and Andrew S. Pond were elected members of assembly. The presidential elector for this district was Parker Halleck.

1837—The financial panic had wrought havoc in the Democratic party, to the great advantage of the Whigs. The Whigs went into the campaign with much confidence, and this confidence was well placed. There were three tickets in the field for county offices. The Democratic-Republican nominated, for senator,

Avery Skinner of Oswego; for sheriff, Calvin Hall; for county clerk, Israel S. Parker; for members of assembly, Willard Crafts, Ebenezer Robbins, Amasa S. Newberry and Luke Hitchcock. The opposing candidates were Jonas Platt for senator; for sheriff, Lyman Curtis (Whig) and Samuel Comstock, who was called an Irregular; for county clerk, James Dean (Whig) and Anson Knibloe (Irregular); for members of assembly, Whigs, Russell Fuller, Fortune C. White, James S. T. Stranahan and Henry Hearsey; Democrats, Willard Crafts, Ebenezer Robbins, Clark Robbins, Luke Hitchcock; Irregulars, John P. Sherwood, Nathaniel Sherrill, Ingham Townsend and Jared C. Pettibone. Jonas Platt carried the county for senator by a plurality of 1,050; Lyman Curtis for sheriff by about 400 plurality; James Dean for county clerk, by about the same plurality; Levi Buckingham, John I. Cook, Lester N. Fowler and Andrew S. Pond, for members of assembly, by about the same plurality.

1838—The canvass of this year opened with warmth all along the line. All the great Whig leaders were alarmed at the situation. Gerrit Smith, at the head of the Abolitionists, questioned Seward as to the propriety of granting fugitive slaves a fair trial by jury, but Mr. Seward declined to make anti-election speeches. Seward had been nominated by the Whigs for governor, and Luther Braddish for lieutenant governor. Francis Granger had been the opposing candidate for governor, but had been beaten in the convention. A branch of the Democratic party, under Nathan P. Talmadge, assembled at Syracuse, adopted Seward and denounced Marcy. The Democratic convention assembled at Herkimer, September 12, renominated Governor Marcy for governor, and John Traey for lieutenant governor. Mr. Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, was confident of the election of Seward, and the great political manipulator of the age, Thurlow Weed, was confident of success. This wizard of politics had for some time been influential in Whig circles, and but few men had exercised the power that Mr. Weed exercised in political affairs in any age, and at this time he was about entering upon his remarkable career. The Marcy local ticket was as follows: For representatives in Congress, John G. Floyd of Oneida and David P. Brewster of Oswego; for senator, Joseph Clark of Madison; for members of assembly, Ward Hunt, Israel Stoddard, Jesse Armstrong and Amasa S. Newberry. The Whigs nominated for representatives in Congress, Charles P. Kirkland and Henry Fitzhugh; for senator, John D. Ledyard; for members of assembly, Fortune C. White, Patrick Mahon, John J. Knox and Philip M. Schuyler. The majority for Marcy for governor in the county was 1,040, but Seward was elected by a majority of 10,321; Floyd and Brewster were elected representatives in Congress by about 900; Clark, for senator, carried the county by about 1,040 majority; Hunt, Stoddard, Armstrong and Newberry were elected members of assembly by an average majority of 730.

1839—This year was an "off year" politically. It would seem as if the great parties were preparing for the unusual campaign of 1840. The county officers elected in this year were members of assembly, as follows: Nelson Dawley, Anson Knibloe, Charles A. Mann and John F. Trowbridge.

## CHAPTER XIII

1840—1859

1840—The campaign of 1840 was perhaps the most extraordinary of any that has ever occurred in the country. The Whigs nominated General William Henry Harrison for president and John Tyler for vice president; William H. Seward was renominated for governor, and the Democrats named William C. Bouck. The entire campaign was carried on upon national issues. The great cry of "Change of the Administration" was most effective. The Whig candidate for president was ideal, under the circumstances. He had performed valuable military services for the country, had been a successful general, and immortalized himself by the battle of Tippecanoe, which gave rise to the most effective cry of "Tippecanoe and Tyler too." A Virginia paper had said that Harrison should remain in his log cabin. This was taken up by the Whigs, and log cabins were built all over the country; and Horace Greeley commenced the publication of a paper known as the Log Cabin. This was the entry of this great writer into national politics, and it is perhaps useless to say that he never had an equal as a newspaper writer. The state convention which nominated Seward was held in Utica, and, instead of being an ordinary convention, people came from all over the state in vast numbers. It is estimated that not less than twenty-five thousand people paraded the streets, and attempted to witness the proceedings of the convention. When the parade was passing, a bystander asked one of the marshals of the day how long the procession was. The marshal replied, "Indeed, sir, I can't tell you; the other end of it is forming somewhere near Albany." There was an attempt to ridicule General Harrison by suggestions of the log cabin, cider barrel and coon skin cap. This was taken up by the Whigs, and marching parties carried the cider barrel, drew the log cabin, and wore coon skin caps. This spirit was most effective in drawing to the Whig candidate the common people, and Harrison was elected by an overwhelming majority. As a matter of fact General Harrison was a most cultured gentleman, the son of Benjamin Harrison, who presided in the Continental Congress, was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was governor of Virginia, and General Harrison, was the grandfather of Benjamin Harrison, one of the most able presidents who ever filled the executive chair. Of this campaign Henry Clay said, "The nation was like the ocean when convulsed by some terrible storm." Bouck for governor carried the county by 789 majority, but Seward was elected governor by 5,203. John J. Knox was elected presidential elector; John G. Floyd was elected to Congress; Calvin Dawley, Joseph Hallock, Luke Hitchcock and Nathan Odell were elected to the assembly, and David Moulton was elected sheriff.



CITY HALL, UTICA





1841—The year 1841 was uneventful as a political year, as neither president nor governor were to be elected, and very little interest was manifested in the election. The death of President Harrison was a sad blow to the Whig party, as John Tyler abandoned the party that elected him and took sides with its opponents. This divided the party somewhat, and the Whig party really never was rehabilitated, although it had temporary successes thereafter. The assemblymen elected this year were Ichabod C. Baker, Ebenezer Robbins, Horatio Seymour and DeWitt C. Stevens. This year marked the entry into state politics of one of the most prominent politicians upon the Democratic side in the history of its party. Horatio Seymour, from this time up to the day of his death, was a powerful element in Democratic circles, and at times swayed the entire party of the nation as well as the state by his unusual ability and high character.

1842—In 1842 the Whig party was really on the decline, for its prominent men, who were thought to be eligible, declined nominations tendered them for high office. Even Seward, who had twice been elected governor, declined to be a candidate. Luther Braddish was finally nominated for governor and Gabriel Farnam for lieutenant governor. The Democratic party was divided into two factions, the Conservatives and the Radicals. The division of the Whig party made the triumph of the Democratic party this year easy, and under the leadership of such men as Edward Croswell, editor of the Albany Argus, Daniel S. Dickinson, Samuel A. Beardsley, Henry A. Foster and Horatio Seymour they were victorious, and elected Bouck governor by a majority of 21,981, he having a majority in Oneida county over Braddish of 1,397. The members of assembly elected were Dan P. Cadwell and Amos S. Fassett by an average majority of 768 over Andrew Rockwell and Salmon Chase, and Evan Owens and Ezekiel Butler over David Murray and John H. Tower by an average majority of 230. Samuel A. Beardsley had a majority for representative in Congress over Charles P. Kirkland of 785. Henry A. Foster, being elected to the senate, was made its president pro tem, and, although he was not a stranger to office at this time, the wisdom of this choice was shown in his great ability as a presiding officer, and it is not extravagant to say that he had no equal as a debater in the senate. In another part of this work we give a sketch of Mr. Foster's life, but we cannot let the occasion pass to pay our tribute to his great ability, and, had he the elements of suavity that Horatio Seymour possessed, he would have been in the front rank among our national leaders.

1843—The Whig county convention assembled at Rome, September 28, 1843, and nominated Palmer V. Kellogg for sheriff, Calvin B. Gray for county clerk, and for members of the assembly Warren Converse, George Bristol, Samuel B. Hinekley and Russell Fuller. The Locofoco or Democratic convention met at Hampton and nominated for sheriff Squire Utley, for county clerk Delos DeWolf, and for members of assembly Horatio Seymour, James Douglass and Richard Empey. The Locofocos carried the county by about 800 majority. Kellogg was elected sheriff by a plurality of 525; DeWolf was elected county clerk by a plurality of 1,011; Horatio Seymour, James Douglass, Richard Empey and Justus Childs were elected to the assembly by an average plurality of about 1,100.

1844—In 1844 the National Democratic party nominated James K. Polk of Tennessee for president and George M. Dallas of Pennsylvania for vice presi-

dent, but it was claimed that VanBuren had been defeated for the nomination by treachery. The Whig convention nominated Henry Clay, the idol of the party, for president, and Theodore Frelinghuysen for vice president. Silas Wright, resigned as United States senator, became the Democratic candidate for governor, although this was not satisfactory to the Radical wing or the Soft Shells, as they were called, of the Democratic party. Millard Fillmore was nominated for governor and Samuel J. Wilkin for lieutenant governor at the Whig convention. Fillmore had been defeated for the Whig nomination of vice president on the Clay ticket, and this was to assuage his sorrows. Fillmore was about entering on a distinguished career. He had been a successful member of Congress, and this was a contest between two of the most prominent men in their respective parties. But a new element entered into the contest. The Abolition party had nominated James G. Birney of Michigan for president and Alvin Stewart of Utica for governor. Gerrit Smith and Bria Green, two of the ablest orators in the Abolition party, supported this last named ticket. The Whig county convention assembled at Hampton in September, and nominated to fill vacancy for member of Congress Salmon Chase, and for the full term Fortune C. White; for members of assembly Josiah S. Kellogg, Harvey Brayton, Samuel B. Hinckley and Jeremiah Knight; at the senatorial convention Samuel Farwell received the nomination for senator. The opposing candidates for senator were Enoch B. Talcott and Isaac S. Ford; for representatives in Congress, Timothy Jenkins, Levi D. Carpenter and Bela Allen; for members of assembly Horatio Seymour, Andrew Billings, Calvert Comstock and Merritt Brooks. The canvass was carried on with great spirit, and much sorrow was manifested at the defeat of Mr. Clay. Oneida county gave 734 plurality for the Polk electors, and 821 plurality for Wright for governor; about the same plurality for Talcott for senator, and Timothy Jenkins had a plurality of 526 for member of Congress for the full term, and Levi D. Carpenter about the same plurality. Andrew Billings, Merritt Brooks, Calvert Comstock and Horatio Seymour were elected to the assembly by a small plurality.

1845—The political campaign of 1845 was fought out largely in the legislature. This fight grew over the question of calling a Constitutional Convention. The two wings of the Democratic party had a majority in the assembly, but the Hards and Softs were not united, and a remarkable young man appeared upon the Whig side, who made a determined fight for the convention. This was John Young. Prior to this time he had done nothing to attract attention, nor was the public aware generally of his extraordinary talents. He was an excellent parliamentarian, and had set his heart upon carrying through the legislature the bill for a Constitutional Convention, and ultimately succeeded. This presaged his future career, and he at once passed into the front rank among young men of the Whig party. The Whig county convention met in Whitestown September 7, and nominated for members of assembly Benjamin F. Cooper, first district, Chauncey C. Cook, second district, Daniel G. Dorrance, third district, and Russell Fuller fourth district. There was nothing before the people to make the canvass exciting beyond the ordinary struggle for precedence and the question of a Constitutional Convention, which tended to strengthen the Whig party, as they were entitled to the credit of having this bill pass through

the legislature. The candidates for senator were Lyman J. Walworth, Democrat, Joshua A. Spencer, Whig, and James Brown, Abolitionist. The Democratic candidates for assembly were James Watson Williams, Henry Wager, Squire M. Mason, Nelson Dawley; and the Abolition candidates were John M. Andrew, William J. Savage, Edmund Allen and Freeman Waterman. The Whig candidate for senator, Joshua A. Spencer, had a plurality in the county of 811, and the Whig assemblymen, Messrs. Cook, Cooper, Dorrance and Fuller were elected by a plurality of about 500.

1846—The most important event in the state during the year 1846 was the work of the Constitutional Convention. The delegates to this convention from Oneida county were Harvey Brayton, Julius Candee, Edward Huntington and Charles P. Kirkland. Mr. Alexander, in his political history of the state, erroneously mentions Ezekiel Bacon as one of the delegates to this convention. Mr. Bacon was a delegate in the convention of 1821, but he was not in the convention of 1846. In speaking of Messrs. Bacon and Kirkland, Mr. Alexander refers to them as "the powerful leaders of a bar famous in that day for its famous lawyers." This convention liberalized the constitution, made nearly all offices elective, shortened the term of senator from four to two years, and provided that members of assembly should be elected in separate districts. The Whig state convention met at Utica, September 23. The delegates from Oneida county were Salmon Chase, Palmer V. Kellogg, Elihu Storrs and Samuel Beach. The prominent candidates for governor were Millard Fillmore, John Young and Ira Harris. On the third ballot Young received 76 votes to Fillmore's 45, and was declared duly nominated. Hamilton Fish was nominated for lieutenant governor by acclamation. The Whig county convention assembled at Rome on the 7th day of October, and nominated for member of Congress, Orsamus B. Matteson; for sheriff, John B. Bradt; for county clerk, George Tracy; for members of assembly, Warren Converse, James J. Carley, Isaac Curry and Nathan Burchard; also four coroners. The Barnburners met in convention at Rome, October 14, and nominated for Congress Timothy Jenkins; for sheriff, H. G. Everett; for county clerk, Richard Hurlburt, and for members of assembly, John Dean, John B. Miller, Vincent Tuttle and Ira Lillibridge. Mr. Jenkins was the representative in Congress at that time, and had been renominated by the Hunkers before this convention was held. The candidate for sheriff had also been nominated by the Hunkers, and the two last named assemblymen were Hunkers, but were not on the Hunker ticket. A Mass Young Men's Whig state convention was held in Syracuse, October 21st, was largely attended, and passed resolutions calling upon all Whigs to support the nomination of Young for governor. The delegates from Oneida county took a prominent part in that convention, the most prominent among them being Palmer V. Kellogg. The official canvass shows that Young carried the county for governor by a majority of 1,337; that Jenkins received a plurality for representative in Congress of 1,325; that Nelson J. Beach carried the county for senator by a plurality of 1,174; that Lester Barker received a plurality of 217 for sheriff; that Patrick Mahon received a plurality for county clerk of 360; that Nathan Burchard, Abel E. Chandler, Isaac Curry and John Dean were elected to the assembly by a small plurality.



1847—In 1847 the Democratic party was rent in twain, one branch being known as Hunkers and the other known as Barnburners. The term "Hunkers" was applied to the conservative element, because it was charged against the members of that wing of the party that they hankered after office, and this word was turned into "hunkers." The Barnburners were the radicals, and the term was applied to that branch of the party because it was said of them that they were like the farmer who burned his barn to get rid of the rats. The foremost leaders of the Hunker element were Horatio Seymour and Henry A. Foster. This division of the party was caused by the bolt of the Barnburners in the Syracuse convention September 7th, when the Hunkers had carried the convention against a resolution in favor of the Wilmot proviso. The Barnburners called a convention, declared in favor of free soil, but did not nominate a ticket. The effect, however, was to elect the Whig ticket by about 30,000 majority. The Whigs nominated Hamilton Fish for lieutenant governor to fill a vacancy; for comptroller, Millard Fillmore, for secretary of state, Christopher Morgan; for state treasurer, Albin Hunt; for attorney general, Ambrose L. Jordan; for state engineer, Charles B. Stuart; three canal commissioners and three inspectors of state prisons; the candidate for senator for the nineteenth district was Thomas E. Clark; for members of assembly, first district, Luke Smith; second district, Warren Converse; third district, Bloomfield J. Beach; fourth district, Russell Fuller. The Utica Gazette of the 22d of October, announces the nominations for the respective offices, and also contains a most interesting report from the Mexican seat of war. It is the report brought by steamer to New Orleans, and spread broadcast through the country, that General Scott had taken the city of Mexico; it also states that Generals Pillow and Shields had been wounded, but were doing well; that the loss in killed, missing and wounded of our army up to that time was from three to four thousand; that General Scott had issued a congratulatory order requiring the officers and men to return thanks to God for their triumph, and enjoining strict discipline and sobriety; also, that an American paper had already been issued in the city of Mexico. Clark carried the county for senator by 1,128. The Whig majority in the first assembly district was 739; second district, 330; third district, Beach was elected, and Henry Wager was elected in the fourth district by a small majority.

1848—The political campaign of 1848 was intensely interesting. The Whig convention had nominated General Zachary Taylor for president, who was one of the greatest heroes of the Mexican war, and Millard Fillmore for vice president. The Democratic candidates were Lewis Cass for president, and William O. Butler for vice president. The Whig state convention was held in Utica September 14th, and nominated Hamilton Fish for governor, and George W. Patterson for lieutenant governor; for electors at large, Henry H. Ross and John A. Collins. The Free Soil Democrats nominated for governor John A. Dix, and for lieutenant governor, Seth N. Gates. The Hunkers nominated R. H. Walsworth for governor, and William J. Forman, for lieutenant governor. General Taylor had won great fame in the Mexican war, which had virtually commenced in 1846. Taylor had been ordered to invade Mexican territory; he had done so, and from the time he entered it, in the many engagements he had with the Mexicans he had been successful. The declaration of war was made by Congress



CITY HALL, ROME



POSTOFFICE, ROME



on the 11th day of May, 1846, and the efficiency of Taylor was illustrated by the fact that he, with a less body of men, in every engagement with the Mexicans had been successful. This was notably true at Buena Vista, where he had defeated Santa Anna with twenty thousand men, although Taylor had but five thousand. His war record became a prominent element in the political campaign, and, although his opponent had rendered important military service, Taylor was swept into the presidential chair by an immense majority. The Whig candidate for governor was elected by a large plurality, and carried Oneida county by 1,401. There appeared upon the scene of action in Oneida county a man of remarkable ability, who, from this time for twenty years was the controlling element in Whig politics in central New York—Orsamus B. Matteson. In another part of this work we have given a sketch of his life as a politician, but it is proper here to say that he excelled as a manipulator in politics, and, but for an unfortunate cloud upon his actions as a member of Congress, he would have gone down in history as one of the foremost citizens of this great country. The Whig county convention met at Rome and nominated for member of Congress, Orsamus B. Matteson; for county treasurer, Sanford Adams; three superintendents of schools; and the members of assembly nominated in their respective districts were as follows: first district, Oliver Prescott; second district, Nehemiah N. Pierce; third district, Junius Woods; fourth district, John M. Muscott. The result of the election in the county was that the Whig candidates were elected by more than 1,000 majority over the Free Soil party, and more than 2,000 majority over the Hunkers. The Taylor electors had a majority over the Cass electors of more than 2,000; Matteson was elected to Congress, and Prescott, Pierce, Elwell and Stevens were elected members of assembly.

1849—General Taylor became president March 4, 1849, but the country was shocked because of his untimely death, and political parties seriously disturbed because of the fact that Millard Fillmore had become president. It was supposed that the slavery question had been permanently settled by resolutions which had passed Congress known as the Clay Compromise, and the greatest satisfaction was manifested throughout the country; bells were rung, guns were fired, and great rejoicing occurred, because this question, which threatened the disruption of the Union, was supposed to have been finally disposed of. But the truth of the saying, attributed both to Lincoln and Seward, that the "Nation could not exist half free and half slave," arose and "would not down" until it was finally settled at Appomattox, when Lee tendered his sword to the great hero of the Federal armies. The Whig state convention met in Syracuse in September and nominated Joshua A. Spencer for judge of the Court of Appeals; Washington Hunt for comptroller; Christopher Morgan for secretary of state; Alvin Hunt for treasurer; Samuel Stevens for attorney general, and some other state officers. By the constitution of 1846 Supreme Court justices were to be elected by districts, and the nominations were made this year; Joseph Mullin was the candidate for the fifth judicial district nominated by the Whigs, and the Locofocos nominated F. W. Hubbard. Both these candidates were from Jefferson county. The Whigs nominated for state senator, Joseph Benedict; for sheriff, John B. Jones; for county clerk, Alexander Rea; for members of assembly, first district, William J. Bacon; second district, John J. Knox; third district,



William Howes; fourth district, George Brayton. The Democrats nominated for sheriff, Edward Eames; for county clerk, Richard Hurlburt; for members of assembly, first district, Augustus Hurlburt; second district, Ralph McIntosh; third district, Robert Frazier; fourth district, Luther Leland. The result of the election was that Mr. Mann received 111 majority for senator, Jones, for sheriff, 147; Rea, for county clerk, 480; and the members of assembly, first district, Bacon, Rep., 625; second district, McIntosh, Dem., 20; third district, Frazier, Dem., 84; fourth district, Leland, Dem., 110 majority.

1850—In 1850 the Whigs nominated Washington Hunt for governor, and George W. Cornwell for lieutenant governor. The convention, however, that nominated Hunt was a riotous one, and resulted in a split of the Whig party. Francis Granger headed the bolters, and with his dignified manner, elegant apparel and silver gray hair led the bolting delegates as they passed out of the hall. This gave rise to the name "Silver Gray Whig" that was attached to that wing of the party thereafter. They called a convention to be held at Utica, October 17th, but did not make any nominations. The Democratic convention nominated Horatio Seymour for governor, and Sanford E. Church for lieutenant governor. A great meeting of citizens was held in New York city under the management of the Democrats for the purpose of capturing the Silver Gray element of the Whig party, but this was not very successful, and, although Seymour carried Oneida county by a majority of 1,088, Hunt was elected governor by a plurality of 262. The vote was so close that it required weeks to determine who was elected governor, although the other candidates upon the Democratic ticket were elected by substantial pluralities. The Whig county convention nominated for representative in Congress, Orsamus B. Matteson; for district attorney, Roseoe Conkling; for members of assembly, Joseph Benedict; second district, Lorenzo Rouse; third district, William Howes; fourth district, George Brayton. The Democrats nominated Timothy Jenkins for representative in Congress; for district attorney, Samuel B. Garvin; for members of assembly, first district, Nantis White; second district, William H. Hubbard; third district, Lewis Rider; fourth district, David Moulton. The result of the election was that Timothy Jenkins, Dem., received 117 majority for representative in Congress; Garvin, Dem., for district attorney, 626; and Joseph Benedict, Lorenzo Rouse, Lewis Rider and George Brayton were elected members of assembly.

1851—In 1851 there was no governor to be elected and the campaign was a quiet one. Seymour dominated the Democratic party, and nominated a state ticket of his own liking. Charles A. Mann, a senator from this district, with other Democrats resigned their seats in the senate in order to prevent legislation favorable to canals. This act was resented by the people of the county, and a Whig convention held at Rome, May 8th, denounced his conduct by resolution, and nominated Benjamin N. Huntington to fill the vacancy; Mr. Huntington was elected by nearly three thousand majority. The Democratic county convention was held at Rome and nominated P. Sheldon Root for county judge; Othneil S. Williams for surrogate; DeWitt C. Grove for treasurer; and Jesse Armstrong for senator; for members of assembly, first district, George Graham; second district, James M. Tower; third district, Henry Sanford; fourth district, John J. Castle. The Whig convention nominated Benjamin N. Hunt-

ington for senator; for county judge, Benjamin F. Cooper; for surrogate, Amos O. Osborne; for treasurer, Edmund H. Shelley; for members of assembly, first district, George D. Williams; second district, Chauncey S. Butler; third district, Robert H. Jones; fourth, George Brayton.

Mr. Huntington was elected senator by 749 majority; and the members of assembly, first district, Williams, Whig, 583; second district, Butler, Whig, 93; third district, Sanford, Dem., 265; fourth district, Castle, Dem., 98.

1852—The campaign of 1852 was an interesting one in the state, as the Whig national convention had nominated General Scott, the great hero of the Mexican war, for president, and William A. Graham for vice president. These nominations did not give satisfaction throughout the state of New York, as Henry Clay, at this time, was the idol of the Whig party, and great disappointment was manifested everywhere because he was not nominated for the presidency. The Democratic national convention assembled at Baltimore, and, notwithstanding the fact that the state of New York pressed the candidacy of Marey, its delegates were divided; Seymour was the prominent figure in the Democratic party, and controlled the delegates to such an extent as to cast the majority of the vote for Marey. Twenty-three supported Marey and 13 supported General Cass. The result was that Franklin Pierce of New Hampshire was nominated for president, and William R. King of Alabama, for vice president. The Whig state convention met at Syracuse and renominated Governor Hunt, and William Kent, son of Chancellor Kent, for lieutenant governor. The Democratic state convention met in Syracuse and was entirely dominated by Seymour, who succeeded again in obtaining the nomination for governor, with Sanford E. Church as lieutenant governor. The division in the Whig party over the nomination of General Scott was the overthrow of the party, and Pierce was elected president and Seymour governor, carrying the state by 22,596 plurality, and the county by 1,632 plurality. The presidential elector for this district was Daniel Babcock. The Democratic county convention was held at Rome September 30th, and nominated for sheriff, Hugh Crocker, and for county clerk, Richard Hurlburt. The Whig county convention was held October 1st, and nominated for sheriff, John Bradt; for county clerk, Alexander Rae; for members of assembly, first district, Ephraim Palmer; second district, S. H. Addington; third district, John O'Neil; fourth district, W. D. Rowley. Dissatisfaction had been manifested in regard to the representative in Congress, Orsamus B. Matteson, and a very generally signed petition by very prominent men was presented to Hon. William J. Bacon, asking him to become a candidate for the nomination, who consented, but was not nominated in the convention. The fight against the nomination of Mr. Matteson for representative in Congress was led by Roseoe Conkling. The champion of Mr. Matteson in the convention was James McQuade, and it was finally determined that an informal ballot should be taken which resulted in Matteson 63, Huntington 9, Bacon 11, and one blank. Although this ballot was called informal, Mr. Conkling, after it was announced, arose and withdrew the name of Mr. Bacon. Mr. Conkling made a speech advocating harmony, and after speeches by others a formal ballot was taken which resulted in Matteson, 69, Huntington 16, whereupon Mr. Conkling moved the unanimous nomination of Mr. Matteson. As a protest

against this Joshua A. Spencer was put in nomination as an Independent candidate for representative in Congress. The Daily Gazette, a Whig paper, refused to support Mr. Matteson, but placed the name of Joshua A. Spencer in large type as its candidate for representative in Congress. The same paper, commenting upon the result of the election on the morning after, says: "We acknowledge beat,—whipped throughout. Some of the Whigs had a little consolation, amid the general overthrow of the Whig party, in the election of Oneida's favorite son to Congress." Mr. Matteson carried the county by 306, Rae by 365, while the rest of the Democratic ticket was elected. The assemblymen elected were Dexter Gilmore, Amos O. Osborne, Julius C. Thorn and Amos C. Hall.

1853—The Democratic state convention was held September 13, 1853, at Syracuse, and resulted in another split, and this time the Hunkers seceded from the convention and the Barnburners controlled the situation. The Whig convention assembled October 5th, and Roseoe Conkling was a prominent candidate for attorney general, but was defeated for the nomination by Ogden Hoffman. The state officers nominated by the Whigs were elected, with the exception of Hiram Denio of Oneida county and Charles H. Ruggles, who were elected to the Court of Appeals bench, because they were placed upon the tickets of both wings of the Democratic party. In this year William J. Bacon was nominated by the Whigs for justice of the Supreme Court in the fifth judicial district; they also nominated for senator, Daniel G. Dorrance; for district attorney, Eaton J. Richardson. The Democrats nominated for senator, John E. Hinman; for district attorney, Henry T. Utley. Mr. Dorrance, Rep., for senator, had 1,298 majority; Utley, Dem., for district attorney, 232 majority; and Joseph Benedict, A. P. Case, D. L. Boardman and James Mitchell were elected members of assembly.

1854—When the respective conventions assembled in 1854 the country was again extremely agitated over the slavery question. Mr. Seward had stirred the country by his discussion of the subject, and the Democratic party in the south was pressing its views with great vigor and great ability. This subject was paramount all through the land. The Democratic party, still rent in twain, held two conventions. The Hards nominated Greene C. Bronson for governor, and Elijah Ford for lieutenant governor. The Softs nominated Horatio Seymour for governor, and William H. Ludlow for lieutenant governor. This was a singular circumstance because, up to this time, Seymour was classed as a leader among the Hard Shells, but he had abandoned them and joined the Soft Shells. The Whig state convention held September 20th nominated Myron H. Clark for governor, and Henry J. Raymond for lieutenant governor. The great newspaper king, Horace Greeley, advocated the dropping of the name "Whig," and substituting for it the name "Republican," as a proper name for the party that opposed the extension of slavery. This had been done in some of the western states, and at Jackson, Michigan, it is claimed that the Republican party was formed. The platform that nominated Clark declared "for justice, temperance and freedom." Clark was supported by the Prohibitionists, and Roseoe Conkling, in referring to the idea of the new name for the party, said "this county belongs to the Republican party." In this year a new element entered





REPAIRING THE GREAT BREAK IN THE BLACK RIVER CANAL AT FORESTPORT





into politics—the American party, then known as the Know Nothings, which nominated Daniel Ullman for governor, and Gustavus A. Scroggs for lieutenant governor. The term “Know Nothing” grew out of the fact that it was charged of the American party that they had certain secrets, and that it was in reality a secret organization, the acts of which were mysterious, and when any of the party were interrogated in regard to it they made no answer, and it was then said of them that they were Know Nothings. For weeks after the election it was supposed Seymour had been elected, but the complete returns showed that Clark was elected governor by 309 plurality. Seymour carried Oneida county by 349 plurality. The Democrats nominated for county treasurer Henry Armstrong; for members of assembly, Henry R. Hart, Noah E. King, Spencer H. Stafford and Jesse Talcott. The Whigs nominated for members of assembly, G. D. Williams, Levi Blakeslee, H. H. Baker and Daniel Walker, who were all elected. For representative in Congress the candidates were Orsamus B. Matteson, William C. Johnson, Naaman W. Moore and Benjamin N. Huntington. Mr. Matteson had a plurality of votes for representative in Congress of 1,320.

1855—An important event in political affairs in 1855 was the election of a United States senator. The term of William H. Seward expired, and his position on the slavery question had drawn to him certain support, and alienated from him many of his former followers. The north was intensely excited over the Kansas question. About five thousand Missourians had invaded Kansas and had fraudulently carried the election. This outrage was resented in the North, and it became a political issue. After a bitter fight in the legislature Seward was re-elected. The Hards of the Democratic party met in convention at Syracuse August 23rd, approved the compromise measures, and did nothing to satisfy the people of the North upon the slavery question. The Softs met in convention August 29th, condemned the Kansas outrages, and opposed the further extension of slavery. The Whig convention, and a mass convention, made up largely of the Softs, was held at Syracuse, September 26th. One of the objects of these two conventions was to get together upon some basis under the name of the Republican party, and committees were appointed to agree upon a ticket. This was successful; the Whigs marched in a body to the Republican convention, were received with great rejoicing, cheers and shouts, and the coalition was effective. The American party and the Free Democracy and Liberty party met in Utica, September 12th, and nominated Frederick Douglass for secretary of state, and Lewis Tappen for comptroller. The result of this election was that although the new party did not have a plurality in the state, it cast 135,962 votes. The Democratic county convention was held at Rome October 4th, and nominated for senator Naaman W. Moore; for sheriff, Marcus L. Kenyon; for county clerk, Henry R. Hart; for county judge, P. Sheldon Root; for surrogate, John G. Crocker; for members of assembly, first district, Peter Brewer; second district, James J. Hanchett; third district, Thomas D. Penfield; fourth district, Caleb Goodrich. The Republican county convention was held at Rome, October 10th, approved the action of the Republican state convention and the Whigs held at Syracuse, and appointed a committee to confer with what was known as the Matteson Whig convention in session at Rome.

The same proceedings were had in the Matteson convention, and in the evening the committee of the Matteson convention reported that they had conferred with the committee of the other convention, and had agreed upon the following ticket: for senator, E. J. Richardson; for sheriff, Calvin Hall; for clerk, Israel S. Parker; for county judge, J. Wyman Jones; for surrogate, H. M. Burehard; for members of assembly, first district, Benjamin Allen; second district, Horace H. Eastman; third district, John B. Elwood; fourth district, George W. Smith. The result in the county upon the local ticket was as follows: Richardson, Whig, for senator, 1,001 plurality; Hall, Whig, for sheriff, 1,950 plurality; Howes, Dem., for county clerk, 490 plurality; Root, Dem., for county judge, 908 plurality; Burehard, Whig, for surrogate, 55 plurality; members of assembly, first district, Fowler, Dem., 436 plurality; second district, Hanchett, Dem., 643 plurality; third district, Penfield, Dem., 191 plurality; fourth district, Goodrich, Dem., 154 plurality.

1856—Again a presidential canvass was upon the people. The Kansas controversy was still the excitement of the hour, and when the national conventions met in 1856 the country was in a ferment over this great question. The Democratic national convention was held at Cincinnati, and one of the most prominent men in this convention was Horatio Seymour. In reality, he was the great moving spirit in shaping the work of the convention. The candidates for president were Franklin Pierce, Stephen A. Douglass and James Buchanan. The conservative spirit controlled the convention, refused to renominate Pierce, would not accept Douglass, as too advanced in his ideas upon the slavery question, and nominated James Buchanan for the presidency, and John C. Breckenridge for vice president. The Republican national convention met in Philadelphia June 17th, and contained a vast majority of northern Whigs, Soft Shell Democrats, Abolitionists, and men of almost all shades of opinion, provided their sympathies were against the extension of slavery. John C. Fremont, known as the Pathfinder, was nominated for president, and two prominent candidates appeared for the nomination for vice president—William L. Dayton and Abraham Lincoln, and Mr. Dayton was nominated. The Republican state convention met in Syracuse, September 17th, and nominated John A. King for governor, and Henry R. Selden for lieutenant governor. The two wings of the Democratic party met in separate conventions, combined, and nominated Amasa J. Parker for governor, and John Vanderbilt for lieutenant governor. The American party nominated Erastus Brooks for governor, and Lyman Odel for lieutenant governor. This party had also nominated Millard Fillmore for president. Theodore S. Faxton of this county was the candidate for presidential elector on the American ticket; James Lynch on the Republican ticket, and John Stryker on the Democratic ticket. The Republican candidate for member of Congress was Orsamus B. Matteson, and the Democratic candidate, William C. Johnson; for district attorney the Democrats renominated Henry T. Utley, and the Republicans nominated Jairus H. Munger; the Republicans nominated for members of assembly, first district, Richard U. Sherman; second district, Peleg B. Babcock; third district, John Halstead; fourth district, Ingham Townsend. The Democrats nominated for members of assembly, first district, Henry R. Hart; second district, George H. Cleveland; third

district, William S. Parkhurst; fourth district, John T. Thomas. Fremont carried the state of New York by a plurality of 80,000, but Buchanan, being a resident of the state of Pennsylvania carried that state, and that made him president. King, for governor, carried the state by 65,784 plurality, and Oneida county by the unprecedented plurality of 4,279. Matteson was re-elected to Congress, Munger was elected district attorney, and Messrs. Sherman, Babcock, Halstead and Townsend were elected members of assembly by substantial majorities.

1857—In the legislature of 1857 Ward Hunt, of Utica, was a prominent candidate for United States senator. There were several other candidates, but the great wizard of politics, Thurlow Weed, had decided upon Preston King, and with his usual adroitness, when it became necessary to exercise his power, gave the nomination to Mr. King by a vote of 65 to 17 for Hunt. No governor was elected in this year. There were three tickets in the field—Democrat, Republican and American, or Know Nothing ticket. It is a fact that many of the American party supported the Democratic ticket, and it was elected, as follows: Gideon J. Tucker, secretary of state; Sanford E. Church, comptroller; Lyman Tremain, attorney general; Hiram Denio, of Oneida county, judge of the Court of Appeals. The Republican county convention nominated Richard U. Sherman for state senator, but he declined, and Aldrich Hubbell was substituted in his place; John J. Parry for county treasurer, and the assembly ticket was made up as follows: first district, George F. Weaver; second district, William J. McKown; third district, Thomas G. Halley; fourth district, Reuben Knight. The Democrats nominated Othniel S. Williams for state senator; Adam VanPatten for county treasurer; for members of assembly, first district, Henry R. Hart; second district, Charles D. Jones; third district, William S. Parkhurst; fourth district, Obadiah J. Owens. The result was that Hubbell, Rep., was elected senator by 107; Parry, Rep., county treasurer by 157; for members of assembly, Hart, Dem., 359; second district, McKown, Rep., 627; third district, Halley, Rep., 27; fourth district, Knight, Rep., 296.

1858—The Republican state convention was held in Syracuse, and the prominent candidates for governor were Timothy Jenkins of Oneida county, and Edward D. Morgan, of New York. This convention was manipulated by Mr. Weed, and he was able to nominate Morgan by a vote of 162 to 52 for Mr. Jenkins. Robert Campbell was nominated for lieutenant governor. A large ratification meeting was held in Utica during this campaign, and Mr. Jenkins made one of the principal speeches in support of the ticket. The Democratic state convention would have nominated Horatio Seymour for governor, but he declined, and Amasa J. Parker received the nomination, and John J. Taylor for lieutenant governor. The American party held its convention at Syracuse, and after two days of negotiations failed to unite with the Republicans, and nominated for governor Lorenzo Burrows. At the Republican county convention Roscoe Conkling was nominated for representative in Congress; William J. McKown for sheriff; J. Earl Hulbert for county clerk; for members of assembly, first district, Charles M. Scholefield; second district, Edward Loomis; third district, Patrick C. Costello; fourth district, Didymus Thomas. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress P. Sheldon



Root; sheriff, Thomas D. Penfield; county clerk, Zenas M. Howes; for members of assembly, first district, William C. Churchill; second district, Pomroy Jones; third district, Enoch B. Armstrong; fourth district, Thomas B. Allanson.

Here entered into national politics a man who was destined to rank among the foremost in the country—Roseoe Conkling. The congressman from this district, Orsamus B. Matteson, had become unpopular in his own party, and a consultation of prominent Republicans was had at the house of Richard U. Sherman, which then stood on the corner of Eagle and Kemble streets, which house has since been removed from the lot. The persons who took part in this consultation were Ward Hunt, Richard U. Sherman, William Ferry, Palmer V. Kellogg, Roseoe Conkling, Joseph A. Sherman and several others. The question was, who should be nominated to redeem the district from Matteson's domination. Several different persons were considered, but finally it was agreed that Mr. Conkling should be the candidate. He had made a reputation as district attorney, was a young man of whom there could be no fault found, and it was supposed that he would unite the party better than any other candidate that could be nominated. The Matteson element of the party, when the announcement was made that Conkling was to be a candidate, were tremendously excited, and strained every effort to defeat him. Charles H. Doolittle was the opposing candidate, was one of the foremost lawyers of his age in central New York, and a man of very high character. The contest was bitter, as might be expected, but Mr. Conkling was nominated by a small majority in the convention, went into the canvass with his great ability, and manifested his wonderful faculty for organization. The disappointment of Matteson, because of the defeat of his candidate in the county convention, caused him to support the nominee on the Democratic ticket for representative in Congress. The result was that Morgan was elected governor by a plurality of 17,440, and carried Oneida county by 2,735; Conkling was elected representative in Congress by 2,833; McKown, sheriff, by 2,124; Hulbert, for county clerk, 824; all Republicans; members of assembly, first district, Scholefield, Rep., 84; second district, Loomis, 1,314; third district, Costello, Rep., 308; fourth district, Thomas, Rep., by 596.

1859—As no governor was to be elected this year the campaign was not exciting, as the highest officer to be elected was secretary of state. In this year delegates were elected to the national conventions to nominate a president. The great question before the people was that of slavery, and it entered largely into the canvass, for it was understood that the delegates to the national convention would have the shaping of the position of the parties upon this great question. The Democratic state convention met at Syracuse, September 14th, to elect delegates to the national convention to be held at Charleston, S. C. A fierce fight occurred in this convention. A body of prize fighters had been brought there by Fernando Wood of New York, to control the convention by force, if it could not be controlled otherwise. Resolutions endorsing the administration of President Buchanan were adopted. The Republican state convention assembled at Syracuse September 7th, and nominated a ticket made up of candidates of Democratic and Whig antecedents. Its candidate for secretary of state was Elias W. Leavenworth. The American party met September 22d,

and endorsed five of the candidates of the Democratic party. Leavenworth was defeated by about 1,500, showing that this was accomplished by the vote of the Know Nothings. The Republicans nominated William H. Ferry for state senator; George W. Smith for county judge; for members of assembly, first district, James McQuade; second district, Benjamin A. Allen; third district, Thomas Evans; fourth district, George Williams. The Democrats nominated Lewis Rider for state senator; N. Curtis White for county judge; for members of assembly, first district, Dan P. Cadwell; second district, Charles B. Wilkinson; third district, Charles Graham; fourth district, Alfred Buck. The result of the election was that Ferry, Rep., was elected senator by 3,407; Smith, Rep., for county judge, 2,616; members of assembly, first district, McQuade, Rep., 601; second district, Allen, Rep., 920; third district, Evans, Rep., 293; fourth district, Williams, Rep., 683.

It was during this year that the famous John Brown episode occurred in Virginia, and intensified the feeling on the subject of slavery to an extent absolutely unparalleled. This was as much of an issue in this county as elsewhere. Brown was enlogized as a patriot and martyr, and condemned as a murderer, and his real position in history is problematical.

## CHAPTER XIV

1860—1869

1860—The eventful year of 1860 opened with the public mind greatly excited over the approaching national conventions. The Democratic national convention was held at Charleston, S. C., where a bitter controversy arose, and it was found impossible to harmonize the views of the Democrats of the North and the South upon the slavery question. It has been frequently charged that this was intentional on the part of the South, to give them an excuse for withdrawing from the Union, which, it was thought, was in the minds of the leaders of the South at this time. The Northern wing of the party adjourned the convention to assemble in Baltimore, and Stephen A. Douglass and Andrew Fitzpatrick were nominated for president and vice president; they declared in favor of what was known as Squatter Sovereignty, the meaning of which was that each territory should decide for itself on the question of slavery. The southern wing of the party met at Richmond, and nominated John C. Breckenridge for president and Joseph Lane for vice president. Still another party was in the field with its candidates; it was known as the Constitutional Union and Old Line Whig party, the candidates of which were John Bell for president and Edward Everett for vice president. The Republican national convention met in Chicago May 16th. The foremost candidate for president was William H. Seward of New York, and there was but little question when the convention assembled as to his nomination. Horace Greeley had disagreed with Seward, and opposed his nomination, claiming that he was not the strongest candidate. He appeared in the convention as the delegate of a western territory, and his influence was great in favor of the nomination of Abraham Lincoln. Although Seward had led on the vote for two ballots, on the third ballot Lincoln was nominated by a vote of 231½ against 180, and Hannibal Hamlin was nominated for vice president. Although it was claimed that Lincoln was not well known throughout the country, his nomination gave general satisfaction except to the supporters of Seward. The Republican state convention re-nominated Governor Morgan and Robert Campbell for lieutenant governor. The Democratic state convention nominated William Kelley for governor and William C. Crain for lieutenant governor. James T. Brady was also the Independents' candidate for governor. The Republican county convention nominated for representative in Congress Roscoe Conkling; for county treasurer, John J. Parry; for members of assembly, first district, James McQuade; second district, Levi T. Marshall; third district, George H. Champlin; fourth district, William Lewis. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress, DeWitt C. Grove; for county treasurer, Griffith M. Jones; for members of assem-



THE ROBERT FRASER STORE





bly, first district, Francis Kernan; second district, Garrit I. Bronson; third district, Marquis Kenyon; fourth district, Daniel J. Drummond. This campaign was a notable one in the history of the country. During the fall, business was almost suspended, and every one was giving attention to the political canvass. Men were organized into what was known as Wide Awakes—which were uniformed marching clubs composed of Republicans. Upon the Democratic side similar organizations existed known as Little Giants, in honor of Stephen A. Douglass, who was known as the "Little Giant." A general canvass was made throughout the state, and particularly in Oneida county, and public meetings were held in substantially every town and hamlet. The great demonstration on the Republican side was on October 15th in Utica, when an immense mass meeting was held, and was attended very largely by the inhabitants of Central New York. Two great tents were erected between State, Hart and William streets, that property being void of any buildings at that time. The speakers were Carl Schurz, ex-Lieutenant Governor Noble of Wisconsin, and William A. Howard, who had been chairman of the committee to investigate the outrages in Kansas. The tents, which it was claimed would hold eight or ten thousand people, were entirely inadequate to hold the crowd, and an outside meeting was organized, and it was to this meeting that ex-Lieutenant Governor Noble delivered his address. In this campaign Roseco Conkling spoke extensively and most effectively. The Democrats also held great mass meetings in Utica and in Rome during the campaign. On the night of election the excitement was so great that scarcely any one in the city of Utica slept, and the streets were filled with men awaiting the news. Before morning the news was of such character that it was reasonably certain Lincoln had been elected, and enthusiasm of the Republicans was unbounded. It appeared afterwards that Lincoln had carried the state by 50,136, and Morgan had been elected governor by 63,460. The result in the county was that the Lincoln electors received over 3,000 majority; Morgan for governor, 3,400; Conkling for representative in Congress, 3,563; Parry for county treasurer, 3,384; the following were elected members of assembly; first district, Kernan, Democrat, 436 majority; second district, Marshall, Republican, 1,389 majority; third district, Kenyon, Democrat, 249 majority; fourth district, Lewis, Republican, 883 majority.

1861—The enthusiasm and rejoicing over the election of Lincoln had scarcely subsided when the war cloud appeared in the South. Buchanan's vacillation and timidity was severely condemned by the Republicans and many Democrats, but what seemed evil at the time probably worked out the greatest good in the end. As soon as it was certain that war would come and the president called for volunteers, there was a hearty response, and war meetings were held throughout the country. The support of the president during the year 1861 was most cordial. The Democratic state convention assembled at Syracuse; Francis Kernan of Utica, was temporary chairman, and in his speech he favored the prosecution of the war. The platform, however, was not satisfactory and the candidates nominated at this convention virtually repudiated the platform before election day. A convention called the People's convention, which consisted of Republicans and Democrats favorable to the national administration, nominated a Union ticket headed by Daniel S. Dickinson for attorney gen-

eral, also William B. Taylor of Oneida county, for state engineer. A great Democratic meeting was held in Utica, October 28th, and was addressed by Governor Seymour. His speech could not be said to have been patriotic under the existing circumstances, and the state gave a majority for the Union ticket of 100,000. The local Union ticket consisted of Alexander H. Bailey for senator, Hugh Crocker for sheriff, and Dan P. Buckingham for county clerk; for members of assembly, first district, Charles N. Scholefield; second district, Eli Avery; third district, Thomas D. Penfield. There was also a People's candidate for member of assembly in the third district, Rensselaer Lament, nominated by those who were dissatisfied with the nomination of Mr. Penfield; Fourth district, Jeremiah Sweet. The Democratic ticket was made up of John F. Seymour for senator; Giles Hawley for sheriff; James J. Hanchett for county clerk; and for members of assembly, first district, Abram B. Weaver; second district, Bradford C. Montgomery; third district, Rensselaer Lament, the candidate of the People's party, who was adopted by the Democrats; fourth district, John F. Thomas. The result of the election was that Bailey, Union, received a majority of 3,069 for senator; Crocker, Union, 2,845 majority for sheriff; Buckingham, Union, 3,198 majority for county clerk; for members of assembly, first district, Scholefield, Union, 5 majority; second district, Avery, Union, 1,325 majority; third district, Penfield, Union, 604 majority; fourth district, Sweet, Union, 782 majority.

1862—During the year 1862 the war had been disastrous to the Union side, and a great depression existed throughout the country. The Democratic newspapers and public speakers severely condemned the administration, criticised Mr. Lincoln and ridiculed him in every conceivable way. His proclamation, declaring that in the future if the South did not lay down its arms he should issue another proclamation declaring the slaves free, had caused intense feeling, and many who had supported him up to that time abandoned him and went over to the Democrats, upon the theory that the war was being prosecuted to free the slaves, and that it might cease if the government would compromise with the South upon the basis of union as it had existed prior to the secession of the states. This, however, was not the case, for Mr. Lincoln communicated with the president of the Southern Confederacy, and the confederate states declined to even negotiate upon any basis except their independence. Horatio Seymour was nominated for governor by the Democratic state convention, and David R. Floyd Jones lieutenant governor. The Republican candidate for governor was James S. Wadsworth, who, at the time, was a general at his post in the army, with Lyman Tremaine as lieutenant governor. The contest was so bitter that it was proposed at one time to have both candidates withdraw, and to agree upon John A. Dix. Dix, however, declined to be considered, as he was at his post doing most effective duty in the army. The discouraging condition at the seat of war, the feeling against the proclamation of the president on the slavery question, and general dissatisfaction with the administration caused the defeat of the Republican ticket, and Seymour was elected by a majority of 11,571, although Wadsworth carried Oneida county by about 481. Great interest centered in the election of the representative in Congress. Roscoe Conkling had served four years, and, as is the case, had disappointed many in not

procuring their appointment to office. This militated against him, and his very prominent antagonist justly took advantage of all fair means to accomplish his own election. Francis Kernan had been nominated by the Democrats, and the two went into the canvass with great vigor, but Mr. Conkling's health was very poor, and it was necessary for him to harbor his strength late in the campaign, and much of the time he was not able to be out of the house. The writer has heard him state that as the cause of his defeat in this election. The candidates for the assembly upon the Republican ticket were—first district, Charles H. Doolittle; second district, Daniel M. Prescott; third district, Samuel P. Lewis; fourth district, Isaac McDougall. The Democratic candidates for the assembly were—first district, Abram Weaver; second district, Barzilla Budlong; third district, Asa Sherman; fourth district, Thomas Bamber, Jr. The majority for Mr. Kernan for representative in Congress was 98, Weaver, Democrat, was elected to the assembly from the first district by a majority of 128; Prescott, Republican, second district, by 1,154 majority; Sherman, Democrat, third district, by 604 majority; McDougall, Republican, fourth district, by 469 majority.

1863—The most extraordinary condition of affairs existed in the legislature in the winter of 1863. The parties were so evenly divided and party ties so weak that it was impossible for weeks to elect a speaker. Chauncey M. Depew was in the legislature and a prominent candidate for speaker, but, after weeks of controversy, the Republicans united upon an Independent Democrat known as Timothy C. Callicot, and he was duly elected speaker amidst an unprecedented scene in the legislature. Threats of personal violence and substantially a riot existed during the proceeding. A prominent candidate for U. S. senator this year was Ward Hunt, of Oneida county, but, by the combination of opposing elements, Edwin D. Morgan was selected. At this time the sentiment of a portion of the Democratic party was so strongly in favor of the South that they were denominated as Copperheads, the significance of which was that they were likened to a snake called copperhead, which is said to attack its enemy in the rear. Governor Seymour vetoed a bill, which had been passed by the legislature, permitting soldiers to vote in the field under proper restrictions, and on the 4th of July he delivered an oration in New York, dwelt largely upon the subject of war, condemning the administration, and, in his adroit manner, intensified the feeling against the administration and against the prosecution of the war. About this time a pamphlet appeared, known as the New Gospel of Peace, which was a satire upon what were known as the Copperheads, in which Seymour was included. This pamphlet, among other things, said: "He is sometimes called Seemer, because he seems to be what he is not. Others call him Saymore, because he can say more and mean less than any other man in the country." In Mr. Seymour's New York speech, he said: "When I accepted the invitation to speak, with others, at his meeting, we were promised the downfall of Vicksburg, the probable capture of the confederate capitol, and the exhaustion of the rebellion. By common consent, all parties had fixed upon this day when the results of the campaign should be known, to mark out that line of policy which they felt that our country should pursue. But, in the moment of expected victory, there came the midnight cry for help from Pennsylvania to save its despoiled fields from the invading foe; and within sight of this great commercial



metropolis, the ships of your merchants were burned to the water's edge." It is a remarkable fact that on the morning on which Governor Seymour delivered this speech Pemberton surrendered, with more than 27,000 men and great quantities of munitions of war, the city of Vicksburg to the commander of the union forces, Ulysses S. Grant. More than that, Meade, on the afternoon of the 3d day of July, had driven Lee from Pennsylvania and won the great battle of the war—Gettysburg. It is still more notable that Governor Seymour's speech said that such things were promised upon that day, but little did he think that they had actually been accomplished. It was claimed afterwards by Seymour's opponents that the famous riots in New York city occurred in consequence of his Fourth of July speech, and he was severely criticised for addressing the mob as his "friends." We do not think that this criticism is well founded, for the writer has heard Governor Seymour many times deliver political speeches, and he never heard him use a harsh term. It was his custom, in speaking of the Republican party, to refer to them as "our friends." As no governor was to be elected this year the Democratic state ticket was made up of David B. St. John, comptroller, Sanford E. Church, attorney general, and other minor offices. The Republicans nominated Chauncey M. Depew for comptroller, William B. Taylor of Oneida, for state engineer, and the state was carried by Depew by a majority of 29,405. The Republicans were not idle during this year in Oneida county. At their convention, which was called the Republican Union convention, held on September 25th, they had nominated Alexander H. Bailey for senator, George W. Smith for county judge, John J. Parry for county treasurer, and for members of assembly, first district, Benjamin Shaw; second district, Levi Blakeslee; third district, Aaron W. Kellogg; fourth district, John W. Douglass. The fifth judicial district had also nominated Henry A. Foster, of Rome, for justice of the Supreme Court, and at the time of his nomination it was understood that if elected he would remove to Oswego. This he did after his election, and on the expiration of his term he returned to his old home in Rome, and died there at an advanced age. A sketch of his life is found in another chapter of this work. The Anti-Administration party, as it was styled at this time, nominated for senator, Othneil S. Williams; Griffith M. Jones, for county treasurer; and for members of assembly, first district, Abram Weaver; second district, Edmund Terry; third district, Chauncey Brodick; fourth district, William W. Hallock. Substantially the only issue in the campaign was the question of the war, the Republican Union party supporting the administration, and the other party opposing substantially everything done by the administration. The result in the county was as follows: For senator, Bailey, Rep.-Union, 963 majority; for treasurer, Parry, Rep.-Union, 1,093 majority; members of assembly, first district, Weaver, Democrat, 212 majority; second district, Blakeslee, Rep.-Union, 1,005 majority; third district, Brodick, Democrat, 313 majority; fourth district, Douglass, Republican, 393 majority.

1864—There was much fault found with the national administration in 1863-4, and Mr. Lincoln was criticised severely by the Radicals as being too conservative, and a like criticism was made by the Conservatives because he was too radical. The Radicals called a national convention at Cleveland, Ohio, for May 31st, and John C. Fremont was nominated for president and John Coehran

for vice president. Many prominent Republicans were opposed to the re-nomination of Lincoln, and General Grant was talked of by many as the proper candidate to lead the Republican party in this campaign. The Republican convention held at Baltimore, however, unanimously nominated Lincoln for president and Andrew Johnson for vice president. An attempt was made after that to induce Lincoln to withdraw, and it was proposed to hold another convention to agree upon somebody who would unite the party. The convention, however, was not held, Mr. Lincoln stood, and almost from the time of his nomination he grew in popularity with his party, and finally the Fremont ticket was withdrawn, and his supporters fell into the ranks of the regular Republican organization. The Republican platform declared for a vigorous prosecution of the war, and sustained Lincoln in his proclamation freeing the slaves. The Democratic convention was held in Chicago, and the prominent figure was Horatio Seymour. He presided in the convention, but declined to be a candidate for the presidency. His sincerity in declining was questioned by some of the orators of the day. Francis Kernan was also a delegate in the convention, and it can be said without qualification that they were two of the leading spirits in shaping the policy of that convention. The platform condemned the national administration and demanded a cessation of hostilities "with a view to an ultimate convention of all the states or other peaceful means to the end that, at the earliest practical moment, peace may be restored on the basis of the federal union of the states." The convention then proceeded to nominate General George B. McClellan for president, and George H. Pendleton vice president. The Republicans nominated for governor Reuben E. Fenton, and Thomas G. Alvord for lieutenant governor. The Democrats nominated John T. Hoffman for governor, and David R. Floyd Jones for lieutenant governor. The campaign in Oneida county was intensely interesting. Roseoe Conkling made a thorough canvass of the county, and he had such able assistants upon the stump as Ellis H. Roberts, Alexander H. Bailey and Henry A. Foster. The Democratic party was represented upon the stump by Horatio Seymour, Francis Kernan, J. Thomas Spriggs, and other able and eloquent speakers. The feeling was intense, and the chief subject discussed was the "war," the Republicans arguing that no quarter should be given to traitors and that the war should be prosecuted with the utmost possible vigor, the Democrats arguing for reconciliation with the South and a suspension of all hostilities until negotiations could be carried on to the end that peace might be established between the contending forces. The Republican county convention was held under unusual circumstances. A fierce attack had been made upon Roseoe Conkling by members of the Republican party led by George W. Smith, county judge, and they endeavored in every possible way to prevent his nomination. Mr. Kernan had defeated him two years before, and as a last resort Conkling's opponents circulated diligently the report that the president did not wish him nominated, and this was having great effect in the canvass. The convention assembled at Rome, September 23d. Roseoe Conkling was put in nomination, and Judge Smith, who was a remarkable talker, made a bitter speech opposing his nomination, and stated in substance that it would be displeasing to the president to have Conkling nominated. This move had been anticipated and Ward Hunt, being

a delegate in the convention, replied to Judge Smith, and, as a part of his reply, read the following letter from Mr. Lincoln: "Executive Mansion, August 16, 1864. Hon. Ward Hunt, my dear Sir—Yours of the 9th inst., was duly received, and submitted to Secretary Seward. He makes a response which I herewith enclose to you. I add for myself, that I am for the regular nominee in all cases, and that no one could be more satisfactory to me as the nominee in that district, than Mr. Conkling. I do not mean to say there are not others as good as he in the district; but I think I know him, to be at least good enough. Yours truly, A. Lincoln." This letter produced the desired effect, and Mr. Conkling was readily nominated. The Republican local ticket, in addition to member of Congress, consisted of Daniel B. Danforth, for sheriff; Orson Carpenter, for county clerk; and for members of assembly, first district, Samuel R. Campbell; second district, Lorenzo Rouse; third district, Hezekiah L. Wilcox; fourth district, George W. Cole. The local Democratic ticket consisted of Francis Kernan, for representative in Congress; Giles Hawley, for sheriff; James C. Bronson, for county clerk; and for members of assembly, first district, Abram B. Weaver; second district, Isaac T. Doolittle; third district, Thomas D. Penfield; fourth district, Simeon Fuller. There was great excitement on election day, and the returns were received in Utica and read to crowds on the streets and around newspaper offices; in fact, the city was kept all night in a state of excitement over the result, but before morning it was reasonably certain that Lincoln had been elected, although he lost the state of New York. There were crowds in the streets shouting and singing and rejoicing over what was deemed to be a great victory for the union cause. A humorous song was sung hundreds of times during the night, one verse of which was as follows:

"Come, come, come, Jeff, come,  
Come with your old Beauregard;  
Your niggers and your cotton will soon be forgotten,  
You can't go back on Abe so very hard."

It is said that many men were moved to tears when it was determined that Lincoln had been re-elected. Fenton carried the county for governor by 1,152 majority; Conkling received 1,150 majority for representative in Congress; Danforth for sheriff, 1,041 majority; Carpenter for county clerk, 1,070 majority; for members of assembly, first district, Weaver, Dem., 113 majority; second district, Rouse, Rep., 1,055 majority; third district, Penfield, Dem., 675 majority; fourth district, Cole, Rep., 635 majority.

1865—The year 1865 witnessed one of the most joyous events in the history of the government, which was the termination of the great Civil War. It also witnessed one of the saddest days in the history of the country—the day on which Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, April 14th. When the news of the surrender of Lee reached Utica it was proposed to celebrate the event by a public demonstration. On Friday evening, April 14th, a meeting of citizens was held in the Common Council Chamber to make arrangements for the celebration, and a committee was appointed to consider the subject. At one o'clock that night the telegraph announced the sad news that President Lin-



coln had been assassinated. The celebration was never had, but what occurred is described in one of the newspapers, which said: "Nowhere did the terrible national calamity fall with more depressing effect than in Utica. It came upon us in the midst of rejoicing for victories won. While we were assembled to devise means for a formal celebration, the assassins at Washington had formed a plan and waited an opportunity to bereave the nation of its great head. People read the telegrams and turned away from the horrid deed and sickening details with feeling well nigh bordering on despair. At 8 a. m., the wires flashed the last sad truth, that President Lincoln was dead. Our flags were not forbidden to float, but reasonably were lowered to half mast, while above their folds the black pennant of mourning symbolized the deep anguish of twice ten thousand hearts in Utica. Before the hour of noon Genesee street was robed in mourning. Heavy festoons of black drooped from window to window, and erape everywhere floated sorrowfully in the breeze. Neighbor met neighbor with a saddened look. The people crowded around the various bulletin boards, reading with the most intense anxiety the news dispatches, and many silent prayers ascended that God would spare that life, which although it had almost flickered to its socket, still seemed so essential to our nation's future." The following proclamation was issued by Mayor Butterfield:

"Public Sorrow. Mayor's Office, Utica, April 15, 1865: A great calamity has befallen the nation in the murder of its chief magistrate and the attempted murder of the chief officer of his cabinet. Citizens are requested to close their place of business and suspend their usual avocations from 12 noon till 2 p. m., of today, during which hours all the bells of the city will be tolled. John Butterfield, Mayor."

In accordance with their own feelings and sense of propriety not less than with the proclamation of the mayor, the business men closed their several offices and stores during the hours suggested. And for those two hours the bells of the city tolled slowly, sadly.

"And so Utica, in common with the nation, demonstrated by every outward and inward manifestation her grief at the event which now paralyzes the country. But we still keep the flag flying. It is an act which Abraham Lincoln would commend were he living."

Sunday the churches were draped in black and the congregations were sorrowful. The texts of the discourses preached were expressions in which Christians of all ages have given utterance to the emotions of grief, and the discourses themselves reviewed the details of the awful event, the character of the illustrious deceased, and the greatness of our loss, expressing the foremost confidence in the future of the country and pledging the support of the people to the executive on whom the tremendous responsibilities of giving shape to the events of that future have so unexpectedly fallen. It was indeed a solemn day for Utica. No one remembers its like.

Wednesday of the following week the funeral was held, and there was in this city a demonstration taking the form of a memorial parade of all the societies. The grand marshal was Col. James McQuade, and his assistants were Col. C. A. Johnson and Col. J. Palmer. The procession was headed by the



military Brig. Gen. Dering and staff, the 21st Brigade, 45th, 53d and 101st regiments; a catafalque, officers of the army and navy; the colors of the 14th, 25th and 26th regiments borne by wounded soldiers; veteran officers and soldiers and wounded officers and soldiers in carriages; soldiers on furlough. The second division was commanded by Gen. Z. C. Priest, and it was made up of all the Masonic, Odd Fellow and Reehabite bodies of Utica, the Hibernians, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the police, mayor and Common Council. The third division was made up of the 12 companies of the fire department. The procession moved from Broad to John, Bagg's Square, Genesee, Lafayette, State, Court, Hopper, Rutger, Howard avenue, South, Park avenue, Genesee, Whitesboro, Washington to Columbia. All the societies wore badges of mourning and the apparatus was draped in black. A public meeting was held at the First Presbyterian church, at which there were present Dr. Campbell, Rev. P. H. Fowler, D. D., Rev. Ashbel G. Vermilye, D. D., Rev. D. C. Corey, D. D., and Rev. Mr. Wheadon. The pastor, Rev. Dr. Fowler, presided. There were addresses by Dr. Vermilye and Dr. Corey. Hon. C. H. Doolittle suggested that resolutions should be adopted, and Mayor Butterfield was called to preside. Judge William J. Bacon offered appropriate resolutions, which were adopted.

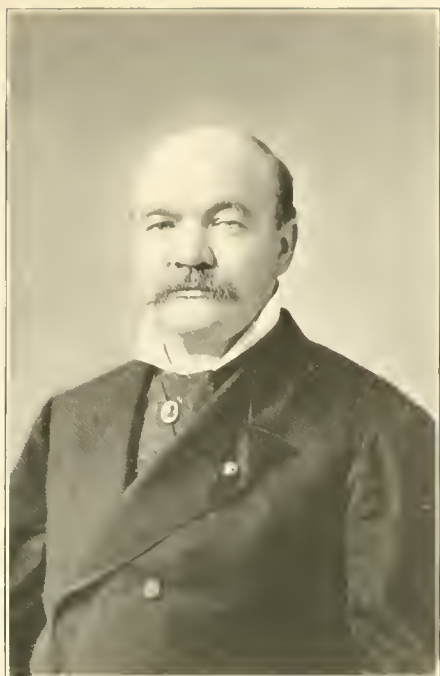
Bishop Cox issued a letter in accordance with which a meeting was held at Grace church the same day. The burial service was read by the rector of the church, Rev. Edwin M. Van Deusen. Rev. Dr. S. H. Cox, of Trinity church, Rev. Dr. W. T. Gibson, of St. George's church, and Rev. Dr. A. B. Goodrich, of Calvary church, and Rev. Messrs. Perry and Baker, also took part in the service. Appropriate services were held in all the Episcopal churches Thursday, the following day.

A committee of prominent citizens of Utica went to Little Falls on the day of the funeral and escorted the remains of President Lincoln through this city.

Immediately after the assassination the Utica Herald said editorially:

"From the heights of joy to the depths of despair! On Friday the country rang with jubilation over the victory of the Union arms and the speedy return of peace. The country awoke Saturday to the direst affliction, to woe the profoundest, to the alarm and terror which the assassin's arm carried to the bravest hearts. Tears flow, strong men sigh, sorrow and anguish and lamentation fill the land. The nation mourns as a mother mourns for her first born. But Mr. Lincoln is no longer mortal. The assassin has given him the honor of martyrdom. The national grief enshrines his power, and he has passed to the white light of history. Alas, he is dead. But God still reigns and the republic lives. The fruits of the victories won must be secured. The work of pacification must go on."

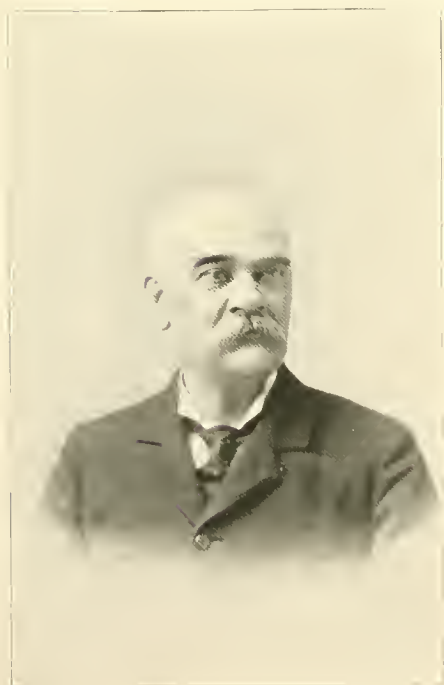
These meetings were not confined to the cities, but were general in all the towns of the country. The terrible event, coming so soon after the surrender of Lee, seemed to impress the people more than if it had come at any other time. Perhaps it is as well here as anywhere to refer to the soldiers from Oneida county who took part in the great conflict. When it is considered that five regiments were made up in Oneida county, and that a large number of young



BRIG. GEN. JAMES McQUADE



GEN. CHARLES WHEELOCK



BREVET BRIG. GEN. RUFUS DAGGETT



BRIG. GEN. JAMES G. GRINDLAY



men had enlisted in other organizations than the regiments organized in this county, it may be concluded that almost every household had its representative upon the battlefield, hundreds of whom sleep in unmarked graves. The regiments organized in this county were the 14th, 26th, 97th, 117th and 146th. When their shattered ranks returned they were received with every manifestation of gratitude, and their memory has ever been and will ever be held sacred in this community. The principal officers in these regiments were as follows: 14th—James McQuade, colonel and Brev. Brig. General; Charles Skillin, lieutenant colonel, killed at the battle of Gains Mills, June 27, 1862; Thomas M. Davies, Lieut. Colonel. The majors were Charles B. Young and Lewis Michaels; adjutants, John F. McQuade and Thomas Manning; quartermasters, Thomas H. Bates and William Broadhead; surgeon, Alonzo Churchill; chaplain, Charles E. Hewes. 26th—Colonels, William H. Christian and Richard A. Richardson; lieutenant colonel, Gilbert S. Jennings; major, Ezra F. Wetmore; adjutants, William K. Bacon and Charles Ackerman—Bacon died of wounds received in the battle of Fredericksburg; quartermasters, William B. Blackwell and DeWitt C. Starring; surgeon, Walter B. Coventry; chaplains, Ira Smith and Daniel W. Bristol. 97th—Charles Wheelock, colonel and Brev. Brig. General—died in the service of disease; John P. Spofford, colonel and Brev. Brig. General; Charles Northrup, major and Brev. Lieut. Colonel; Charles Buck, Joel T. Comstock and N. D. Ferguson, majors—Ferguson died in the service; J. V. Ferguson, chaplain. 117th—William R. Pease, colonel and Brev. Brig. General; Alvin White, colonel; Rufus Daggett, Lieut. Colonel and Brev. Brig. General; Francis X. Meyer, Lieut. Colonel; Egbert Bagg, major and Brev. Lieut. Colonel; adjutants, James M. Lattimore, Augustus M. Irwin, Charles S. Millard and Charles H. Roys; quartermaster, William E. Richards; surgeons, Edward Loomis, Henry W. Carpenter and James A. Mowris; chaplain, J. F. Crippin. 146th—Kenner Garrard, colonel and Brig. General; David T. Jenkins, colonel, killed at the battle of the Wilderness, May 5, 1864; J. Neilson Potter, colonel; James Grindlay, colonel and Brev. Brig. General; Peter Glaesgens, lieutenant colonel and Brev. Colonel; majors, George Pomeroy, William S. Corning, Jesse J. Armstrong, Henry C. Curran and Isaac P. Powell; adjutants, Edward Comstock, William Wright and James P. Pitcher; quartermasters, A. Pierson Case and Marvin Eggleston; surgeon, Thomas M. Flandrau; chaplains, Albert Erdman and Edward P. Paison.

In 1865, the highest officer to be elected was a judge of the Court of Appeals. No great significance was attributed to the election, except that it was understood the Republican-Union party supported the national administration, and the other party opposed it. There does not seem to have been any other issue. The Republicans nominated for judge of the Court of Appeals Ward Hunt; for senator, Samuel Campbell; for members of assembly, first district, Charles M. Scholefield; second district, Alva Penny; third district, Benjamin N. Huntington; fourth district, Silas L. Snyder. The Democrats nominated John W. Brown for judge of the Court of Appeals; John Butterfield for senator; for members of assembly, first district, George Graham; second district, Oliver B. Brown; third district, William S. Parkhurst; fourth district, William H. Owen. Ward Hunt was elected judge of the Court of Appeals



by a substantial majority; Campbell was elected senator by a majority of 2,196; the following members of assembly were elected; first district, Graham, Dem., 242 majority; second district, Penny, Rep., 1,072 majority; third district, Huntington, Rep., 740 majority; fourth district, Snyder, Rep., 636 majority.

An incident of unusual importance occurred June 10th, which was the reception of General Grant in Utica. He had not returned to his home in Galena during the entire war, and he left Washington for the purpose of visiting his home, passing through New York city and along the Central and on to Chicago, and was received with unprecedented enthusiasm. His train arrived in Utica at 4:40 a. m. It was known that he would be upon this train, and the entire country for miles around were at the station to see him. When the train arrived a salute was fired, all the bands in the city were on hand to enliven the occasion with patriotic music, all the bells in the city were rung, fire companies were on hand, and an immense concourse of people. He was aroused in his berth and appeared on the platform. The Utica Morning Herald of the next morning said: "Quietly opening the door of one of the sleeping cars, there appeared upon the platform Ulysses S. Grant, lieutenant general of our armies. He was dressed in a mulberry broadcloth coat, with woolen vest and pants, and carried in his hand a common black Kossuth hat. \* \* \* For fully ten minutes he faced his Utica admirers. \* \* \* The same appearance of stubborn determination was there that we expected to see \* \* \* 'unconditional surrender.' Not a word did he say to us; indeed, had he done so, we should have mistrusted that we had waked up the wrong man."

1866—The political situation in the entire country in 1866 was most peculiar. Andrew Johnson had succeeded to the presidency, had abandoned the party that elected him, taken sides with the South upon many of the important questions of reconstruction, and, in order to merit public opinion, made an extensive trip through the country and made a number of speeches in which he undertook to vindicate himself in the position he had taken. He was received in Utica by a delegation of eminent men, and was welcomed by Mayor McQuade, who, in a guarded speech, extended the freedom of the city to the president of the United States. This trip was known at the time as "Swinging Around the Circle," and it was during this trip that he made such an attack upon Congress that one of the charges made against him on his impeachment was that he had committed high crimes and misdemeanors by assaulting one branch of the government. Some of the prominent Republicans in the state and county sided with Mr. Johnson, and the line was quite sharply drawn between Congress and the president. After President Johnson had made his speech in Utica, General Grant, who was in the party, was presented to the crowd by Hon. Charles H. Doolittle. The newspaper report says: "Hats were wildly flung upward, handkerchiefs waved, and from the wild cheering which greeted him, it was plain to see who was the man Utica came out to see." The newspaper report also says: "With Farragut and Secretary Seward, General Grant stood upon the rear platform and waved his farewell to the crowd." The Union-Republican state convention renominated Reuben E. Fenton for governor, and Stewart L. Woodford for lieutenant governor. The same party

held its county convention at Rome September 10th, and renominated Roscoe Conkling for representative in Congress, and Charles Northrup for county treasurer; the same party also nominated for members of assembly, first district, Levi Blakeslee; second district, Ellis H. Roberts; third district, Benjamin N. Huntington; fourth district, Leander W. Fiske. The Democrats nominated for governor John T. Hoffman, and Robert H. Pruyn, for lieutenant governor. In the county there was nominated an Independent Republican ticket, adopted by the Democrats, and it consisted of Palmer V. Kellogg for representative in Congress, and Griffith M. Jones for county treasurer; for members of assembly, first district, Peter Clogher; second district, James G. Preston; third district, George H. Sanford; fourth district, Nathaniel D. Bronson. It is doubtful whether there was ever a political canvass on local issues as exciting as this one, and the interest was centered in the congressional candidates. Palmer V. Kellogg was one of the men who had been instrumental in making Mr. Conkling the candidate for representative in Congress in opposition to Orsamus B. Matteson. After the election of Mr. Conkling in 1860, Mr. Kellogg and certain other Republicans called upon Mr. Conkling in regard to the appointments which would be made by President Lincoln. He received them in an arrogant manner, and, instead of accepting any suggestions from them, he said to them that when he wanted them he would call for them. It is easy to understand that these men were offended, and from that time onward they sought for an occasion to get even with Mr. Conkling. It was thought by them that the year 1866 was a favorable time to accomplish this end. Mr. Kellogg, therefore, accepted the Independent Republican and Democratic nominations, with a view of defeating Mr. Conkling. The writer was at this time a student in the law office of Mr. Conkling, and had the privilege of learning the inside of the campaign. Mr. Kellogg was a man of great wealth, spent his money liberally in the canvass, and unquestionably believed that he was to be elected. The campaign upon Mr. Conkling's side was most effective. He threw himself into the canvass with great energy, addressed Republican meetings in nearly every town and hamlet in the county, procured the list of the names of every voter in the county, had them classified as Republican, Democrat or Independent, and literature was distributed with great discrimination to every voter in the congressional district. An incident of great importance occurred the week before election. A workingmen's organization had appointed a committee to communicate with every candidate in the county upon the subject of legislation to better the condition of the workingmen. It was claimed that this committee had been corruptly controlled by Mr. Kellogg, or some of his followers, and on Thursday evening of the week before election a meeting was held in the city hall at which the committee made its report, recommending that the labor men support Mr. Kellogg for Congress, Mr. Clogher for member of assembly in the first district, Preston in the second district, Sanford in the third, all Democrats, and Fiske, Republican, in the fourth. This report produced a sensation in the meeting, and a number of workingmen, who were Republicans, protested against it, and finally started a counter-movement in the interests of Mr. Conkling. On the day following the meeting, a petition was circulated calling a meeting for Saturday evening to protest against the action of the committee, and to take such

action as should be thought proper in the premises. This meeting was held in Concert Hall, which stood where the U. S. government building now stands, and an enormous crowd attended. The great number of people could not be accommodated inside of the hall, and a meeting was organized in the street. The first important speech of the evening was made by F. X. Greenia of Rome, and it was very effective in demonstrating to the workingmen that they had been sold out by the committee, and that they should not support the candidates recommended by the committee which had made its report at the city hall. A motion was then made that Mr Conkling be invited to address the meeting, but that he should confine himself entirely to a discussion of the questions pertaining to the workingmen. A committee was appointed and he was brought before the meeting, and it is safe to say that he never made a more effective speech than he made on that occasion. At the opening of his address it was difficult to quiet the crowd in consequence of hisses and yells, but before he had finished he had so changed the sentiment that the meeting went wild with enthusiasm. He addressed himself that evening to the candidates of the two parties, and endeavored to show that in every instance the candidates nominated on the ticket with him had been favorable to the workingmen's interests, and those on the opposite ticket had been unfavorable. On the night of election both parties were extremely excited at their headquarters when the news of election came in. The ward in which Mr. Kellogg lived had given him an excellent vote, and his friends were confident that he was to be elected, but other parts of the city were more favorable to Mr. Conkling. The Republicans had assembled in Concert Hall, and there awaited the returns. At that time there was no rapid means of communication between Utica and the northern part of the county, neither telephone nor telegraph existing there at that time, and the only means of getting the report was to run a special train upon the Utica & Black River railroad from Boonville to Utica, to bring the returns to the city. This train arrived about 1 o'clock at night, and at that time it was believed that Mr. Conkling was elected, but when the train came in and the report was that he had carried the northern towns by about two thousand majority it was then certain that he was elected, and the wildest enthusiasm existed. He was in the hall, and had been called out repeatedly to address the great crowd assembled. As soon as it was reasonably certain that he had been successful different ones were called upon to address the meeting, and also a Mr. John Morgan of Deerfield, an excellent humorist, was called out repeatedly to entertain the crowd. Among other things which he did was to sing a song, which he said he had composed upon the political situation. Two verses of this song were as follows:

"I dreamed a dream the other night, when all around was still,  
I dreamed I saw the Kellogg ship a coming up a hill;  
With all the Copperheads on board, all dreaming of the future,  
And wondering what their fate would be when landed up Salt River.

"The ship rode on, the storm prevailed, and Barber, he got ill,  
But Goodsell was on board in time, and Smith to make his will;  
They held a council on his case, and told him not to die,  
For all the greenbacks were not gone they got of General Frye."





SOLDIERS' MONUMENT IN UTICA



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT AT VERONA

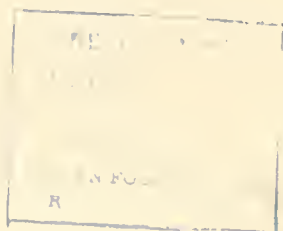


SOLDIERS' MONUMENT IN ROME



SOLDIERS' MONUMENT IN  
WATERVILLE





The individuals referred to in the verses were those with whom Mr. Conkling had had a bitter fight, and had worsted them in every instance, Frye being the provost marshal general, who had been removed from his position largely through the influence of Mr. Conkling. Smith was Judge Smith, who had bitterly attacked Conkling in the Republican convention of 1864. When it was finally determined that Mr. Conkling was elected John Morgan stepped to the front of the stage and said he had composed an epitaph to be placed upon the tombstone of the Kellogg party. It was as follows:

“Stranger, lightly tread,  
For God’s sake, let them lie;  
For since they’re dead we live in peace,  
But Hell is in a Frye.”

At this the audience went wild with enthusiasm, and Morgan was compelled to repeat it over and over again. The crowd finally left the hall, and it was swelled by great numbers in the street; a cannon and a band were procured, and from five to ten thousand people went up Genesee street to Mr. Kellogg’s house; the cannon was fired, a dirge was played by the band, and one, Billy Phillips, delivered a funeral oration. If the proceeding might not be called disgraceful, to say the least, it was most extraordinary. Conkling had received a majority of 1,417; Northrup for county treasurer, 161; for members of assembly, first district, Blakeslee, 88 majority; second district, Roberts, Republican, 550; third district, Sanford, Democrat, 490; fourth district, Fiske, Republican, 571.

1867—A constitutional convention was to be held in 1867. From Oneida county Francis Kernan, Democrat, was elected as one of the delegates at large. Both parties made nominations of some of their most worthy men as delegates in the senatorial district. Richard U. Sherman, Prof. Theodore W. Dwight, Benjamin N. Huntington and George Williams were nominated by the Republicans, and ex-Judge of the Court of Appeals, Hiram Denio, ex-County Judge Othneil S. Williams, Thomas D. Penfield and George Graham were nominated by the Democrats. The Republican delegates were elected, and did excellent service in the convention, Mr. Sherman ranking with the leaders of the convention, and much of the time presiding, although William A. Wheeler, afterwards vice president of the United States, was president of the convention. It was in this year that Roscoe Conkling was elected to the United States Senate, and this left a vacancy in the office of representative in Congress. The Republican convention nominated Alexander H. Bailey for this vacancy; for state senator, Samuel Campbell; for sheriff, George F. Weaver; for county clerk, Arthur F. Brown, and for members of assembly, first district, John French; second district, Alanson B. Cady; third district, John J. Parry; fourth district, Ambrose Nicholson. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress, John Stryker; for senator, George H. Sanford; for sheriff, Giles Hawley; for county clerk, James C. Bronson; for members of assembly, first district, William H. Chapman; second district, Oscar B. Gridley; third district, James Stevens; fourth district, George J. Flint. The campaign was one of no

special interest, and the result was as follows: For representative in Congress, Bailey, 667 majority; for senator, Campbell, Republican, 259; for sheriff, Weaver, Republican, 810; for county clerk, Bronson, Democrat, 75; for members of assembly, first district, Chapman, Democrat, 94; second district, Cady, Republican, 410; third district, Stevens, Democrat, 378; fourth district, Nicholson, Republican, 434.

1868—The impeachment of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, by the House of Representatives by a vote of 126 to 47, was the great event in the year 1868. The Republicans, generally, in the country sustained the Republicans in the House of Representatives on the question of impeachment, although on the trial the Senate failed to convict him, because of the fact that two or three of the most prominent Republicans in the Senate voted against conviction, and they were virtually driven out of the Republican party by their acts. The issues between the parties were still those that pertained to the war, and the logical candidate for the presidency was General Grant, who was nominated with great enthusiasm at Chicago, with Schuyler Colfax for vice president. The Republicans nominated John A. Griswold for governor, and Alonzo B. Cornell for lieutenant governor, and in Oneida county the following ticket was nominated: For representative in Congress, Alexander H. Bailey; for district attorney, Daniel Ball; for members of assembly, first district, Eli Avery; second district, Addison B. Tuttle; third district, Myron G. Beekwith; fourth district, Erastus Ely. The Democratic national convention was held in New York city, and was presided over by Horatio Seymour. After three days of unsuccessful endeavor to agree upon a candidate and failing, Mr. Seymour was nominated by acclamation, and reluctantly accepted the nomination. It is quite probable he realized that his election was doubtful, but he had received great honors from the party, and felt constrained to accept the nomination whether it would result in his election or defeat. Francis P. Blair was nominated for vice president. The Democrats nominated for governor, John T. Hoffman, and for lieutenant governor Allen C. Beach. The Democratic local ticket consisted of J. Thomas Spriggs for representative in Congress; Henry O. Southworth for district attorney; for members of assembly, first district, DeWitt C. Ray; second district, James M. Willard; third district, James Stevens; fourth district, Joel T. Comstock. Both parties went into the canvass with enthusiasm, and Governor Seymour, having established his headquarters at the Butterfield House in Utica, made that the mecca for the leading Democratic politicians of the country. It was, however, impossible to stem the tide in favor of the great hero of the war, and General Grant was elected by a large majority of the electoral vote, and carried the county by 1,317, although Seymour carried the state of New York by about 10,000 majority, and Hoffman, for governor, by about 26,900. It has been claimed that the result in the state was procured through the election frauds in New York city. Griswold, Rep., for governor carried the county by 1,260; Bailey, Rep., for representative in Congress, by 1,302; Ball, Rep., was elected district attorney by 1,262 majority; the members of assembly were elected as follows: first district, Avery, Rep., 45 majority; second district, Tuttle, Rep., 651; third district, Stevens, Dem., 304; fourth district, Ely, Rep., 709.

1869—No questions of importance were before the people of the county in the political campaign of 1869. There was, however, a division in the Republican party that continued from this time for many years; it consisted on one side of the friends of Roscoe Conkling, and on the other side of his political opponents in his own party. The Republicans nominated for state senator, Daniel B. Goodwin; for county treasurer, Charles Northrup; for members of assembly, first district, Samuel S. Lowery; second district, David B. Miner; third district, George A. Cantine; fourth district, James Roberts. The Democrats nominated for senator George H. Sanford; for county treasurer, George Barnard; for members of assembly, first district, Thomas J. Griffith; second district, Lewis H. Shattuck; third district, St. Pierre Jerred; fourth district, Thomas B. Allanson. The result of the election was as follows: Sanford, Dem., was elected senator by 26 majority; Northrup, Rep., treasurer, 791 majority; the members of assembly, first district, Lowery, Rep., 448; second district, Miner, Rep., 408; third district, Jerred, Dem., 620; fourth district, Roberts, Rep., 787.



## CHAPTER XV.

1870—1879.

1870—The Republican state convention assembled at Saratoga, September 8, 1870, and nominated General Stewart L. Woodford for governor, and for lieutenant governor Sigismund Kauffman, and its county ticket was made up as follows: For representative in Congress, Ellis H. Roberts; sheriff, Lewis Gaylord; county clerk, Linus R. Clark; for members of assembly, first district, George W. Chadwick; second district, Sidney A. Bunce; third district, Erastus W. Graves; fourth district, Isaac McDougall. September 22 the Democratic state convention was held in Rochester and nominated for governor, John T. Hoffman, and for lieutenant governor, Allen C. Beach. At the Democratic county convention held at Rome, September 24, Abram B. Weaver was nominated for representative in Congress, Thomas D. Penfield for sheriff; James C. Bronson for county clerk; the Democrats also nominated for members of assembly, first district, Theodore P. Cook; second district, Joseph Benedict; third district, Thomas Mulhall; fourth district, Nathaniel Bronson. The Democrats were successful in the state and elected their governor, but Woodford carried Oneida county by a majority of 1,330; Roberts, Rep., was elected representative in Congress by a majority of 1,716; Gaylord, Rep., sheriff by 941; Clark, Rep., county clerk, by 1,478 majority; members of assembly, first district, Chadwick, Rep., by 648 majority; second district, Bunce, Rep., 693 majority; third district, Mulhall, Dem., by 398 majority; fourth district, McDougall, Rep., by 589 majority.

1871—The year 1871 was an off year, and there was no particular issue before the people except as to who should hold office. The Republicans nominated for senator, Samuel S. Lowery, for district attorney, David C. Stoddard, and for members of assembly, first district, Martin T. Hungerford; second district, Eleazer Beekwith; third district, William Jackson; fourth district, Albert L. Hayes. The Democrats nominated for senator, George H. Sanford; for district attorney, Lewis H. Babcock, for members of assembly, first district, William H. Barnett; second district, Joseph Benedict; third district, George K. Carroll; fourth district, Harry Weed. At this time Senator Lowery had become a potential factor in the Republican party of the county, and he carried the election by a majority of 1,457, while Stoddard, the Republican candidate for district attorney, carried the county by 845. The members of assembly elected were, first district, Hungerford, Rep., by 540 majority; second district, Beekwith, Rep., 715; third district, Carroll, Dem., 152; fourth district, Hayes, Rep., 658 majority.

1872—A presidential election was to be held in 1872, and a large number

of Republicans, who had been disappointed generally in not getting office or controlling patronage, were displeased with the administration of General Grant. They formed themselves into an organization known as the Liberal Republican party, and their chief object was to prevent the renomination of General Grant in this year. The foremost Republican to take this position was Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune. Greeley had become an old man, and had been greatly disappointed repeatedly in not obtaining that which he desired from the Republican party. His ability as a newspaper writer has been acknowledged throughout the entire country, and it is probably safe to say that he has never had his equal as a clear, forcible writer upon political subjects. The power of the Tribune had been so great, that in all localities of the state there were devout followers of Horace Greeley, and this had the effect of drawing quite a percentage of Republicans into the Liberal Republican movement. The popularity of General Grant, however, was so great, that he was unanimously nominated by acclamation in the Republican national convention held in Philadelphia, and Henry Wilson was nominated for vice president. The Liberal Republican party had held a convention at Baltimore, and had nominated for president, Horace Greeley, and for vice president, B. Gratz Brown. This ticket was adopted by the Democrats, and the canvass was, therefore, between Grant, Republican, and Greeley, Liberal Republican, and in some respects it was quite peculiar. In 1864 the New York Tribune had been a powerful element in the canvass supporting General Grant, and among other things Mr. Greeley had said in his paper, "General Grant, the man who was never beaten and never will be." Little did he think at that time that in four years he was to be the candidate against General Grant, and that his prophecy should be so eminently true. The Republican state convention was held in Utica, August 22, and when it assembled it seemed to be conceded that William H. Robertson was to be the candidate for governor. He was present until the evening before the convention assembled, but returned home with the understanding that he was to be nominated. A number of candidates were presented to the convention, and the chairman arose and announced that the vote would be taken. Just at that instant Henry Clews advanced upon the platform and addressed the chair. The chairman, still standing, recognized the speaker, who stepped forward and in an eloquent speech presented the name of General John A. Dix as the candidate for governor. It was a thunderbolt in the convention. A delegate from Monroe arose and withdrew the name of Freeman Clark. Other delegates arose to second the nomination of Dix, and amid the greatest enthusiasm all other names were forgotten and General John A. Dix was unanimously nominated. It has been claimed that this dramatic event was planned by Roscoe Conkling; also that it was planned by Thurlow Weed; but, whoever planned it, it was a master stroke of political engineering. John C. Robinson was nominated by the convention for lieutenant governor. The local ticket consisted of, Ellis H. Roberts, for representative in Congress; for county treasurer, William McPherson; for members of assembly, first district, Nicholas A. White; second district, Henry J. Coggeshall; third district, Patrick H. Costello; fourth district, Daniel Walker. The Democrats and Liberal Republicans nominated for governor, Francis Kernan; for lieutenant governor, Chaun-

ecy M. Depew; for representative in Congress, Richard U. Sherman; for county treasurer, Charles S. Griffin; for members of assembly, first district, Lewis H. Babcock; second district, Reuben S. Bingham; third district, George K. Carroll; fourth district, Charles B. Coventry. This campaign was as enthusiastic on the Republican side as any that has ever occurred within the county since that of 1840. Greeley was ridiculed because he had so often and so bitterly assailed the Democratic party, and now to be its candidate, the situation was peculiar. During the campaign he said, "I have been assailed so bitterly that I hardly know whether I am running for president or for the penitentiary." The result in the county was 3,248 for the Grant electors; 2,156 for Dix, Rep., for governor; 2,803 for Roberts, Rep., for representative in Congress; 2,609 for McPherson for county treasurer; the Republicans elected their members of assembly by the following majorities: first district, White, 135; second district, Coggeshall, 426; third district, Costello, 789; fourth district, Walker, 1,000.

1873—Nothing of importance occurred in the political arena of Oneida county during the year 1873. The usual excitement over candidates was not sufficient to arouse the county to enthusiasm, but the Republicans were generally successful at the polls. Their ticket consisted of Samuel S. Lowery for senator, George Benedict for sheriff, and James B. Paddon for county clerk; for members of assembly, first district, George W. Chadwick; second district, Arthur F. Brown; third district, John J. Parry; fourth district, Griffith O. Jones. The Democratic county convention met in Rome, October 8, and nominated for senator Enoch B. Armstrong; for sheriff, James C. Bronson; for county clerk, Egbert Bagg; for members of assembly, first district, Harvey D. Talcott; second district, George W. Cleveland; third district, Harvey S. Bedell; fourth district, John M. Whipple. The result of the election was that Lowery, Rep., for senator received 2,829 majority; Benedict, Rep., for sheriff, 948; Paddon, Rep., for county clerk, 2,006; and Republican assemblymen were elected by the following majorities: first district, Chadwick, 764; second district, Brown, 17; third district, Parry, 244; fourth district, Jones, 635.

1874—In 1874 there entered prominently into the politics of the state of New York a man who was destined to be a very important element, not only in state but in national politics—Samuel J. Tilden. He was nominated for governor by the Democratic state convention, September 18, and William Dorsheimer, for lieutenant governor. The Democrats named for supreme court judge, fifth judicial district, Albertus Perry; for representative in Congress, Scott Lord; for district attorney, Henry T. Utley; for members of assembly, first district, Richard U. Sherman; second district, Silas T. Ives; third district, Edward Lewis; fourth district, Harry Weed. The Republican state convention met in Utica and renominated Governor John A. Dix, and John C. Robinson for lieutenant governor; Milton H. Merwin was nominated for Supreme Court judge, fifth judicial district; for representative in Congress, Ellis H. Roberts; for district attorney, M. D. Barnett; for members of assembly, first district, George Chadwick; second district, John W. Boyle; third district, Stephen Cromwell; fourth district, Harrison Lillibridge. There was also an independent State ticket in the field, which was Myron H. Clark for governor, and James L. Bagg for lieutenant governor. For representative in Congress, Richard



UTICA POSTOFFICE





E. Sutton; for district attorney, Dean F. Currie; for members of assembly, first district, Harlow Skeels; second district, Silas Purdy; third district, James C. Longland; fourth district, William E. Clark. It has always been claimed by the friends of General Dix that many of his supporters in 1872, who desired to control him while he was governor but failed, turned against him in the election of 1874, and that this resulted in his defeat at this election. He carried the county of Oneida by a plurality of 747. The local canvass centered upon the candidates for representative in Congress. Ellis H. Roberts and Roscoe Conkling had had political and personal differences, each accusing the other of acts that were unfriendly, and Scott Lord, the candidate of the Democratic party in this election was the law partner of Mr. Conkling. It is scarcely susceptible to argument that had Mr. Conkling and his friends supported Mr. Roberts there would have been no doubt about his election, but they found it a convenient time to punish him for what they deemed ingratitude, and, therefore, supported Judge Lord, who was elected by a plurality of 1,426; Merwin was elected to the Supreme Court bench, carrying Oneida county by a majority of 416; Barnett, Rep., for district attorney, was elected by a plurality of 167; and members of assembly, first district, Sherman, Dem., 255 plurality; second district, Ives, Dem., 175 plurality; third district, Lewis, Dem., 446; fourth district, Lillibridge, Rep., 525.

1875—It is doubtful whether an event more imposing ever occurred in Utica than that which occurred in 1875—the reunion of the Army of the Cumberland. This was an immense gathering of the veterans of the civil war. There were present President Grant, Generals Sherman, Hooker, Slocum, Fullerton, and many others who had won fame during the great war, and the city received them with open arms. The decorations were profuse, and at night the city was illuminated as it never had been before, and has never been since. The meetings were most impressive, and among the prominent civilians who took part were Horatio Seymour, Roscoe Conkling, Judge Doolittle, Francis Kernan and many others. Notable addresses were made by Governor Seymour and Roscoe Conkling, and a remarkable speech was made by General Sherman. Again an off year came in politics, and there was little excitement attending the conventions, and few candidates were anxious to be selected as the standard bearers. The Republican convention at Rome, September 22, nominated for senator, Theodore S. Sayre; for county treasurer, William McPherson; for members of assembly, first district, Arthur B. Johnson; second district, Sylvester Gridley; third district, Curtis J. Wright; fourth district, George B. Anderson. The Democrats on September 25, nominated for senator Josiah K. Brown; for treasurer Thomas B. Slingerland; for members of assembly, first district, Richard U. Sherman; second district, Silas T. Ives; third district, James H. Flanagan; fourth district, Walter Ballou. There was also an independent or Prohibition ticket which nominated for senator, Charles Avery; county treasurer, George B. Law; for members of assembly, first district, Timothy Parker; second district, Silas Purdy; third district, James Longland; fourth district, Otis P. White. The election returns showed that Mr. Sayre, Rep., for senator had received a plurality of 355; McPherson, Rep., for county treasurer, 493 plurality; for members of assembly, first district, Sherman, Dem.,

365 plurality; second district, Gridley, Rep., 1,065 plurality; third district, Flanagan, Dem., 123 plurality; fourth district, Ballou, Dem., 221 plurality.

1876—The Republican national convention assembled at Cincinnati, and after an earnest canvass for candidates Rutherford B. Hayes was nominated for president and William A. Wheeler for vice president; while the national Democratic convention at St. Louis nominated Samuel J. Tilden for president and Thomas A. Hendricks for vice president. At the state convention the Republicans nominated Edwin B. Morgan for governor, and Sherman S. Rogers for lieutenant governor. The Republican local ticket was nominated August 31 at a convention held at Rome, and consisted of William J. Bacon, for representative in Congress; Frederick G. Weaver for sheriff; Taliesin Evans for county clerk; and for members of assembly, first district, James Corbett; second district, Everett Case; third district, Benjamin D. Stone; fourth district, J. Robert Moore. The Democrats again nominated for governor Horatio Seymour. He was not at the convention, and when he was waited upon and the nomination tendered him he peremptorily declined. Lucius Robinson was named in his place for governor, and William Dorsheimer for lieutenant governor. Scott Lord was nominated for representative in Congress; for sheriff, James G. Preston; for county clerk, Thomas J. Griffiths, and for members of assembly, first district, Grove W. Bagg; second district, Joseph B. Cushman, 2d; third district, Spencer J. Upson; fourth district, Walter Ballou. Mr. Tilden made an excellent canvass of the state, and his great ability was manifested in the remarkable detail of his work. This was a very eventful campaign, in that both parties claimed the election of their candidate for the presidency, and it all turned upon certain electoral votes from southern states. It will be remembered that this was decided by a board consisting of certain senators and representatives in Congress, and this board, having decided by a vote of 8 to 7 that Mr. Hayes was elected, he became president, and Mr. Tilden ceased to be very active in politics from that time onward. The Republican presidential electors received a majority in Oneida county of 1,175. Morgan, Rep., for governor received 1,071 majority; Bacon, Rep., representative in Congress, 719; Weaver, Rep., for sheriff, 795; Evans, Rep., for county clerk, 1,435; and the Republican assemblymen were elected by the following majorities: first district, Corbett, 208; second district, Case, 247; third district, Stone, 638; fourth district, Moore, 424.

1877—The divisions in the Republican party that had been somewhat healed broke out anew in the campaign of 1877. The Republicans assembled at Rome in convention, October 3, and nominated for senator Sylvester Gridley; for district attorney, Milton D. Barnett; and the Republican candidates for members of assembly were, first district, William Jones; second district, Seth W. Peck; third district, Cyrus D. Prescott; fourth district, Seymour Jones. The Democrats nominated Alexander T. Goodwin for senator; James L. Bennett for district attorney; and for members of assembly, first district, James V. H. Seoville; second district, A. De Verney Townsley; third district, James D. Corcoran; fourth district, Robert H. Roberts. The Republican nominee for senator was supposed to be a friend of Roseoe Conkling, but the division in the party was so bitter at this time that there were a large number of Republicans

who would not vote for any candidate supposed to be a warm friend of Conkling. The Democrats, therefore, elected their candidate for senator, Mr. Goodwin, by a plurality of 1,145; while Mr. Barnett, Rep., carried the county by a plurality of 2,189 for district attorney. The result on members of assembly was as follows: first district, Jones, Rep., 188 plurality; second district, Townsley, Dem., 192 plurality; third district, Prescott, Rep., 148 plurality; fourth district, Roberts, Dem., 174 plurality.

1878—In 1878 the Republicans presented Cyrus D. Prescott, candidate for representative in Congress; for county treasurer, John Kohler; for members of assembly, first district, Benjamin Allen; second district, Frank Sang; third district, Henry R. Jones; fourth district, H. Dwight Grant. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress, J. Thomas Spriggs; for county treasurer, John DeRyther; for members of assembly, first district, Richard U. Sherman; second district, R. Wilson Roberts; third district, Thomas D. Penfield; fourth district, Robert Roberts. The canvass centered on members of assembly in the first district. It was conceded that the county would go Republican, but the situation in the first assembly district was an unusual one. Mr. Conkling resided in the district, and Benjamin Allen was a very strong friend of Mr. Conkling. Mr. Sherman, the candidate of the Democratic party in that district, had been one of Mr. Conkling's warmest friends, and it was at Mr. Sherman's house that Mr. Conkling was brought forth as a candidate for Congress when he was yet under 25 years of age. Both sides were determined to win in this election. The influences were so strong for Mr. Conkling and his friends that the district gave a substantial Republican majority, and Mr. Allen was elected by 509 plurality. In the second district, Sang, Rep., received a plurality of 254; third district, Penfield, Dem., 393 plurality; fourth district, Grant, Rep., 649 plurality; and, as was expected, the county gave 1,068 plurality for Prescott, Rep., for representative in Congress, and 1,686 plurality for Kohler, Rep., for county treasurer.

1879—The Republican state convention met in Saratoga in 1879 and nominated for governor, Alonzo B. Cornell, who was classed as a friend of Roscoe Conkling, which disappointed many Republicans, and they manifested no interest in the canvass. George G. Hoskins was nominated for lieutenant governor. The Democrats met in Syracuse, September 12, and nominated for governor, Lucius Robinson, and for lieutenant governor Clarkson N. Potter. The local Republican ticket was, for senator, George B. Anderson; for sheriff, Francis X. Meyers; for county clerk, Henry J. Coggeshall. The county ceased to have four members of assembly at this time, in consequence of a reapportionment giving Oneida county only three members, and the Republican candidates were: first district, Henry J. Cookinham; second district, James A. Douglass; third district, David Gray. The Democrats nominated for senator, James Stevens; for sheriff, Wilson Smith; for county clerk, Martin S. Gotry; and for members of assembly, first district, James V. H. Scoville; second district, Martin V. B. Warner; third district, Lewis R. Powell; Mr. Scoville also was supported by the Labor party. There was also a bolting Democratic ticket for governor, which resulted in the election of Cornell, although the combined vote against him was greater than that cast for him. The rest of the Republican ticket in



the state was elected. The result in the county was that Stevens, Dem., was declared to be elected by a plurality of 154. It was proposed by Mr. Anderson to contest the election, claiming that there had been fraud in the town of Westmoreland and that he (Anderson) was elected by about 100 plurality. The writer was present when this matter was considered at a conference of legislators held in Albany, and it was finally decided that the election should not be contested. The senator, who was chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, said in the hearing of the writer that there were too many Republicans in the senate already. Myers, Rep., for sheriff received a plurality of 2,996; Coggeshall, Rep., for county clerk, 1,002; and the Republican assemblymen were elected by the following majorities: first district, Cookinham, 137; second district, Douglass, 118; third district, Gray, 593.

## CHAPTER XVI.

1880—1889.

1880—The year 1880 presented the Democratic party divided into two factions, the Regulars and the Kelly or Anti-Tilden party, and two conventions were held in Syracuse to elect delegates to the national convention. The Tilden element controlled, and the national convention nominated for the presidency General Winfield S. Hancock, and William H. English for vice president. The Republican national convention assembled in Chicago, and on the 36th ballot nominated for president James A. Garfield, and for vice president, Chester A. Arthur. The Greenback party also had a ticket in the field consisting of James B. Weaver for president and E. J. Chambers for vice president. The Republicans nominated for representative in Congress Cyrus D. Prescott; for county judge, William B. Sutton; for district attorney, William A. Matteson; and for members of assembly, first district, James Armstrong; second district, David G. Evans; third district, Thomas D. Roberts. The Democrats nominated Richard E. Sutton for representative in Congress; Thomas E. Kinney for county judge; for district attorney, William Townsend; and for members of assembly, first district, Joseph Joeressen; second district, Edward D. Evans; third district, Charles E. Fraser. This canvass was made almost entirely upon the tariff question. The Democrats declared in favor of a tariff for revenue only, and the Republicans declared in favor of the protection of home industries. There was also a violent attack made upon General Garfield, it being claimed that he had acted improperly in regard to money transactions while a member of Congress. This, however, produced little effect, and the tariff question was the all-absorbing theme during this exciting campaign. Immense meetings were held within the county, notably a Democratic meeting on September 16, in Utica, which was addressed by Governor Seymour, Francis Kernan, and other distinguished speakers. There was also an immense Republican meeting and torchlight procession at night on October 25. At this meeting General Grant was present, presided and made a brief speech. The meeting was addressed by Senator Conkling and Governor Boutwell of Massachusetts. In the evening the torchlight procession was made up of uniformed Republican clubs, and Senator Conkling gave a public reception to General Grant. At the beginning of this campaign Mr. Conkling was lukewarm, and probably would not have taken an active part in it had it not been for the influence of General Grant. Conkling had been a delegate in the national convention, had advocated the nomination of General Grant, and Grant had received 306 votes in the convention, but a speech made by Garfield in nominating John Sherman produced a tremendous effect in the convention, and was the

means of the nomination of Garfield. This disappointed Conkling, and he was always jealous of Garfield, and on his return from the convention he criticised Garfield severely. The result of the election was that Garfield carried the state, and carried the county by a majority of 2,053. Prescott, Rep., for representative in Congress had a majority of 2,052; Sutton for county judge, 2,213; Matteson for district attorney, 1,660; while the Republican members of assembly were elected as follows: First district, Armstrong, 214; second district, Evans, 534; third district, Roberts, 1,255.

1881—The assassination and death of President Garfield changed the whole situation politically in the state of New York. The President had refused to make certain appointments desired by Mr. Conkling. Thomas C. Platt had been elected to the senate, and took his seat trammelled by promises that he had made to certain prominent Republican legislators just prior to his election. Mr. Conkling had asked, prior to election, that he should be allowed to name the secretary of the treasury and the collector of the port of New York. Mr. Garfield had declined to make that promise, but stated that he would accord such political favors as he was entitled to in consequence of his very prominent place in the party. At Albany during the canvass for U. S. Senator, the prominent candidates were friends of Mr. Conkling—Thomas C. Platt and Richard Crowley. Few, even, of Mr. Conkling's friends knew which of the two he favored, but the writer knows that he favored Mr. Platt, as he confided to some of his confidential friends. On the evening the caucus was to be held for the nomination of senator, Mr. Platt was asked to attend a conference at the Delevan Hotel. He did attend, and this conference consisted of the prominent Republican members of the senate. He was there told if he would support Senator William H. Robertson for any position for which the President should nominate him, they would nominate him, (Platt) for the United States Senate on the first ballot. Mr. Platt made this promise, and he was nominated on the first ballot. It was at that time supposed that Mr. Robertson would be nominated as Minister to France, but, instead of that, the President nominated him for Collector of the Port of New York. Mr. Conkling violently opposed the confirmation of Mr. Robertson. Mr. Platt informed Mr. Conkling of the promise he had made, and said to him that he could not live in the state of New York and not keep his promise. It was then suggested by Mr. Platt that they should resign, that the legislature was favorable to them, that they could both go back to the legislature, be re-elected, and then come to the senate untrammelled by promises. This was finally consented to by Mr. Conkling, and resignations were forwarded to Governor Cornell, but they failed of reelection, after a desperate struggle. From this time onward Mr. Conkling took no active part in politics. President Arthur and Mr. Conkling did not agree, and the relations between them ceased to be friendly. Memorial services were held throughout the country on the death of General Garfield, and a notable gathering assembled in the First Presbyterian Church in Utica, where addresses were made by Dr. Daniel G. Corey, Hon. William J. Bacon, Rev. Dr. Thomas Brown, and many others. The Republican party was rent in twain by this fight between the President and Mr. Conkling, and the Conkling party was known as the Stalwarts, while those who sided with the President were known as Halfbreeds. The

Republican county convention was held at Rome, October 12, and nominated for senator, Samuel H. Fox; for county treasurer, John Kohler; and for members of assembly, first district, Willard J. Scott; second district, J. Theodore Knox; third district, Frank A. Edgerton. The Democratic county convention was held in Rome, October 14, and Robert H. Roberts was nominated for senator; Henry Hopson for county treasurer; and for members of assembly, first district, H. Lee Babcock; second district, Morris R. Jones; third district, Charles J. Edie. The result of the election was that the Democrats elected Mr. Roberts senator by a plurality of 791; the Republicans elected Kohler, treasurer, by 33 plurality; and for members of assembly, first district, Patrick Griffin, an Independent Republican, was elected by a plurality of 114; second district, Jones, Dem., 140 plurality; third district, Edgerton, Rep., 613 plurality.

1882—The year 1882 found the Republican party still rent in twain, and when its state convention assembled at Saratoga it met under great difficulties. It is stated by Alexander, in his "Political History of the State of New York," that James S. Wadsworth was made a candidate for governor in the interest of Judge Charles J. Folger, who was the national administration candidate for governor, but this is an error. Mr. Wadsworth was first favored for the nomination in Oneida county, and the writer drew the resolutions, which were adopted in the Oneida county assembly district conventions, instructing the delegates to the Saratoga convention to favor the nomination of Mr. Wadsworth. The writer also served as chairman of the delegation in that convention. The meetings of the Wadsworth delegates were held in the writer's room in the United States Hotel, and the facts in regard to the case are that 68 delegates assembled in that room. There were several others favorable to the nomination of Wadsworth when the convention assembled, among whom was ex-Senator Madden. It was evident that these delegates had the control in the convention, provided they could be held together. A committee was appointed to meet the representative of Governor Cornell to agree upon organization of the convention, as the Cornell forces and the Wadsworth forces constituted a majority in the convention. The writer was chairman of the committee of the Wadsworth delegates, and he, with two others, Senator Lorin Sessions and Charles E. Ferrin, met U. S. Senator Warner Miller and Edmund Pitts, and it was agreed between them that Mr. Pitts should be selected as the temporary chairman of the convention. This committee made a report to the Wadsworth delegates on the evening before the convention, and their report was unanimously adopted. It was then also unanimously determined that every delegate in the room should vote for Mr. Wadsworth as long as his name was in the convention. The national administration's influence then began to have its effect. Tremendous inducements were offered to delegates who were in the interest of Mr. Wadsworth to vote for Senator Madden for temporary chairman, and these influences with others were so potential that twelve of the delegates violated their promise, refusing to vote for Pitts, and cast their votes for Madden, thus determining the policy of the convention. The result of this was that Charles J. Folger was nominated for governor, with B. Platt Carpenter for lieutenant governor; but the feeling was so intense that it was from that day an assured fact that whoever should be nominated by the Democrats for gov-



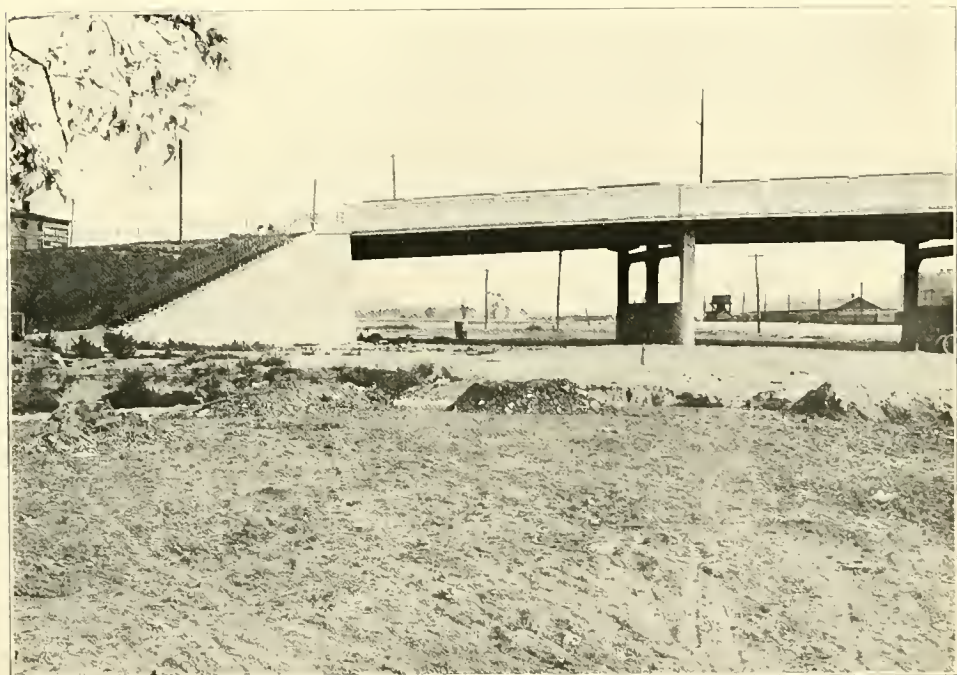
ernor would be elected. It fell to the lot of Grover Cleveland to be nominated by the Democrats for governor, with David B. Hill as lieutenant governor. The result of the election proved the folly of the action of the national administration party in controlling, in the manner that it did, the Republican Saratoga convention, and placed a former resident of Oneida county in the executive chair of the great state of New York. The local ticket nominated by the Republicans was for representative in Congress, Samuel H. Fox; for sheriff, Hugh P. Owens; for county clerk, Arthur Ballou; and for members of assembly, first district, Albert P. Seaton; second district, Ira C. Jenks; third district, Oscar F. Hulser. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress J. Thomas Spriggs; for sheriff, Thomas D. Penfield; for county clerk, Henry Hopson; and for members of assembly, first district, William Townsend; second district, Clarence E. Williams; third district, Thomas B. Allanson. The division in the Republican party was manifested in the county as well as in the state, and Grover Cleveland, the Democratic candidate for governor, carried the county by 4,932 majority; Penfield, Democrat, was elected sheriff by 693 majority; Ballou, Republican, was elected county clerk by 225; and the Democratic assemblymen were elected by the following majorities: first district, Townsend, 765; second district, Williams, 2,087; third district, Allanson, 195.

1883—The year 1883 presented no events worthy of great attention among the political controversies in the county. The Republican state convention was held at Richfield Springs, but as no governor was to be elected it was rather a tame affair. The local Republican ticket was, for senator, Henry J. Coggeshall; for district attorney, William A. Matteson; and for members of assembly, first district, Joseph Joyce; second district, Clarence E. Allen; third district, T. James Owens. The Democrats nominated for senator, Thomas E. Kinney; for district attorney, William Townsend; and for members of assembly, first district, Joseph Marron; second district, Joseph Ackroyd; third district, Thomas B. Allanson. The result of the election was that Coggeshall, Rep., received a plurality of 1,054; Matteson, Rep., for district attorney, received a plurality of 823; and members of assembly were elected as follows: first district, Joyce, Rep., 524 plurality; second district, Ackroyd, Dem., 150 plurality; third district, Owens, Rep., 538 plurality.

1884—The congressional district in 1884 consisted of Oneida and Lewis counties and was known as the 23d district. The first meeting of delegates in this district was held at Boonville, April 18, for the purpose of electing delegates to the national convention, and the delegates chosen were William E. Scripture of Oneida and A. M. Lampher of Lowville; William S. Bartlett was nominated for presidential elector. The state convention was held in Utica and nominated delegates to the national convention, resulting in the selection of Andrew D. White, Theodore Roosevelt, John I. Gilbert and Edwin Packard as delegates at large, and the accrediting of the delegates selected by the different districts. James G. Blaine was the most prominent Republican candidate for the presidency, and these delegates at large were opposed to Mr. Blaine, while a good number of the delegates selected from the respective districts were favorable to his nomination. The national convention nominated Blaine for



MOHAWK RIVER AT THE FOOT OF GENESEE STREET, UTICA,  
NEAR THE OLD FORD



MOHAWK RIVER AT THE FOOT OF GENESEE STREET, UTICA (THE OLD FORD),  
AS IT NOW EXISTS. THE RIVER CHANNEL HAVING BEEN ENTIRELY  
FILLED. THE NEW CHANNEL IS NOW FARTHER NORTHWARD



president, and John A. Logan for vice president. Henry J. Cookinham was nominated by the Republicans for representative in Congress at a convention held at Boonville, September 17, and the Republican county convention nominated for county treasurer, John R. Edwards; and the candidates for members of assembly were, first district, Benjamin Steber; second district, George P. Noek; third district, T. James Owens. Grover Cleveland was nominated by the Democrats for president, and Thomas A. Hendricks for vice president. J. Thomas Spriggs was renominated for representative in Congress by the Democrats at the convention held in Booneville, September 11, and at the Democratic county convention Pierre Becker was nominated for county treasurer; the Democrats nominated for members of assembly, first district, Thomas J. Griffith; second district, Lewis B. Sherman; third district, S. Mason Smith. There was also a Prohibition ticket in the field, consisting of Dr. Henty, of Lowville, for representative in Congress. Dr. Henty was not a Prohibitionist, but was put in nomination by the influence of the Anti-Blaine element for the purpose of defeating Mr. Cookinham for Congress, as the bolting Conkling Republicans supported Mr. Spriggs, as well as they did Mr. Cleveland. The campaign was one of the most bitter in the history of the country. Grover Cleveland was violently attacked, and his character assailed in almost every possible way. Mr. Blaine was also attacked, charged with dishonesty, incompetency, and of using his office as speaker of the house of representatives corruptly. Roseoe Conkling never forgot that Mr. Blaine and he had disagreed in the house of representatives, and that Blaine had characterized him as having "the strut of a turkey gobbler." Mr. Conkling, although at this time practicing law in New York City, came to Utica, called together his political friends, and endeavored to induce them to support Cleveland instead of Blaine at the approaching election. This appeal was not in vain, for in the Utica Press of October 24, there appears a paper signed by about one hundred of Mr. Conkling's friends styling themselves a "committee," which paper is a violent attack upon Mr. Blaine. One of the subdivisions of this paper reads as follows: "The lack of all statesmanship in his long congressional career which has failed to identify his name with any single affirmative act of well defined or conspicuous public importance, and in its negative character has contributed to the delay or defeat of many measures of wise legislation." When it is remembered that Mr. Blaine was the leader of the Republican side of the house of representatives, was one of the ablest speakers who ever presided over that body, that he was one of the best informed men in the entire country, was one of the most effective writers and speakers that the country has ever produced, to say the least, the statement of this committee is quite extraordinary. The county gave the Cleveland electors a plurality of 30, and the state gave him a plurality of 1,034, which, it has been charged, were fraudulently obtained by the manipulation of the returns in New York City by one, John O'Brien, who was a Conkling Republican, and at the head of the election department in that great city. Edwards, Rep., was elected county treasurer by 340 plurality, and the members of assembly elected were, first district, Steber, Rep., 22 plurality; second district, Sherman, Dem., 240 plurality; third district, Owens, Rep., 174 plurality.



1885—General Grant died in August, 1885, and memorial services occurred in Utica on August 9, an immense crowd assembling at the Opera House, and addresses were delivered by Hon. Ellis H. Roberts, Frederick G. Fincke, Charles H. Searle, Hon. Francis Kernan, and a letter was read from ex-Governor Horatio Seymour. After General Grant retired from public office he received great honor, all feeling of bitterness that had existed during the political campaign seemed to have been laid aside, and he was admired by the entire country, nowhere more than in Oneida county. He had visited the county on several occasions, had been the guest of Senator Conkling, and his gentleness, which was almost womanish, was most remarkable in a man who had been so terrible a warrior. In this year the Republicans nominated Ira Davenport for governor, and Joseph B. Carr for lieutenant governor, while the Democrats nominated David B. Hill for governor; Mr. Hill had succeeded to the executive chair of state because of the election of Mr. Cleveland to the presidency. Roswell P. Flower was nominated for lieutenant governor, but declined, and Edward F. Jones was nominated in his place. The Republicans nominated for senator, Henry J. Coggeshall; for sheriff, John Batchelor; for county clerk, M. Jesse Brayton; and for members of assembly, first district, Benjamin Hall; second district, Robert W. Evans; third district, Israel J. White. The Democrats nominated for senator, Abram Weaver; for sheriff, Robert A. Jones; for county clerk, LeGrange E. Scrafford; and for members of assembly, first district, Charles K. Grannis; second district, Lewis B. Sherman; third district, Willard T. Atwood. Hill was elected governor, and the result in Oneida county was that Coggeshall, Rep., for senator received a majority of 2,381; Batchelor for sheriff, 2,037 majority; Brayton, Rep., for county clerk, 1,282; all of the Republican members of assembly were elected, as follows: first district, Hall, 275; second district, Evans, 110; third district, White, 1,273.

1886—In 1886 the Republican congressional district convention met at Boonville and nominated James S. Sherman for representative in Congress, and this was the first appearance of Mr. Sherman in national politics. He had been elected Mayor of Utica by a large majority, had been chairman of the Republican county committee, and was thoroughly equipped by education and training to fill the office for which he had been nominated, as future results have clearly demonstrated. The county convention met in Rome, October 1, and nominated for district attorney Josiah Perry; for members of assembly, the Republicans nominated, first district, Benjamin Hall; second district, Robert W. Evans; third district, John C. Davies. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress, J. Thomas Spriggs; for district attorney, Thomas S. Jones, and for members of assembly, first district, Charles K. Grannis; second district, Lewis B. Sherman; third district, Thomas D. Penfield. The result of this election was that Mr. Sherman, Rep., was elected to Congress by a plurality of 697; Jones, Dem., was elected district attorney by 129 plurality; and the Republican assemblymen were elected by the following pluralities: first district, Hall, 646; second district, Evans, 210; third district, Davies, 1,023.

1887—There was nothing in the year 1887 to excite public interest in the election, and everything moved on in an ordinary way. The Republicans nominated for senator, Henry J. Coggeshall; for treasurer, John R. Edwards;

and for members of assembly, first district, Michael H. Sexton; second district, George G. McAdam; third district, George Beatty, Jr. The Democrats nominated for senator John G. Gibson; for treasurer, George P. Russ; and for members of assembly, first district, J. Harry Kent; second district, Edward Kernan; third district, A. J. Sly. The result was as might have been expected, that the county gave a Republican majority, electing Coggeshall senator by a plurality of 1,243; Edwards, county treasurer by 1,712; and members of assembly, first district, Kent, Dem., 295 plurality; second district, McAdam, Rep., 265 plurality; third district, Beatty, Rep., 357 plurality.

July 14 President Cleveland, who had been recently married, visited Utica with his wife, and was entertained by Senator Kernan. In the evening a public reception was given at the Butterfield House, which was attended by a great number of people, and the impression made by Mr. Cleveland and his beautiful wife was most favorable. There was a particular interest manifested in the reception because of the fact that Mr. Cleveland had formerly resided within the county at Clinton, and also at Holland Patent.

1888—Roseco Conkling died in New York, April 18, 1888. His residence had always been retained in Utica, but his law practice was in New York, and he spent most of his time there, only occasionally coming to Utica, and when there he mingled very little with his former associates. It is supposed that he contracted a severe cold by undertaking to walk up Broadway from his office to his hotel during the great blizzard of 1888. Traffic was virtually suspended in the city, and it was substantially impossible to travel except upon foot, and when he arrived at the hotel he was near collapse. He was taken sick, and it resulted in an abscess behind the drum of the ear, which proved fatal. A committee, consisting of prominent Uticans, went to New York, accompanied the remains to Utica and to the cemetery. As prominent as he had been in his day, he left little to make his name prominent in the annals of the nation. The Republican congressional district convention, including Oneida and Lewis counties, was held at Boonville, May 23, to elect delegates to the national convention, and the delegates selected were Samuel R. Campbell and Henry Phillips. They were unpledged, but were supposed to be favorable to James G. Blaine, should he be a candidate for the presidency. The presidential elector nominated by this convention was J. S. Koster of Lewis county. The Republican national convention nominated General Benjamin Harrison for president, and Levi P. Morton for vice president, and this gave great satisfaction to the Republicans of Oneida county. Harrison was favorably known throughout the country, and the family to which he belonged had been one of the most prominent in the history of the country, as his great-grandfather, Benjamin Harrison, presided in the Continental Congress, his grandfather had been three times governor of Virginia, his father a prominent politician and candidate for Congress, himself governor of the state, United States senator, and general in the Union Army during the great Civil War. The Republican state convention convened at Saratoga and nominated Warner Miller for governor, and for lieutenant governor S. V. R. Cruger. The Republican congressional district convention met at Booneville, September 5, and renominated James S. Sherman for representative in Congress. The county convention nominated Thomas Wheeler

for sheriff, and for county clerk, Fred D. Haak. The Republicans nominated for members of assembly, first district, Adelbert D. Risley; second district, George G. McAdam; third district, Abisha B. Baker. The Democratic national convention renominated Grover Cleveland for president, and Allen G. Thurman for vice president. Governor Hill and lieutenant governor Jones were renominated by the Democratic convention in Buffalo by acclamation, and the Democrats in their congressional district convention nominated John D. McMahon for representative in Congress. In the Democratic county convention Richard E. Sutton was nominated for sheriff, and Charles H. Ballou for county clerk. For members of assembly the Democrats nominated, first district, Joseph H. Kent; second district, Erastus Tiffany; third district, Frederick H. Thompson, who declined, and one Knowlton, was a candidate, but received few votes. From the time Harrison was nominated he grew in public estimation, and his letter of acceptance was a masterly production. The campaign turned almost entirely upon the tariff question, and Mr. Harrison was elected, carrying the state of New York, his electors receiving a majority in the county of Oneida of 1,966. Miller, Rep., was defeated for governor, but carried Oneida county by a majority of 874. The result in the congressional district was the election of Mr. Sherman, and he carried the county of Oneida by 1,213 majority. Wheeler, Rep., was elected sheriff by a majority of 4,256; Haak, Rep., county clerk, by 2,915 majority; for members of assembly, first district, Kent, Dem., received 216 majority; second district, McAdam, Rep., 426 majority; third district, Baker, Rep., over Knowlton, 3,395 majority; it appears that there was really no opposing candidate to Mr. Baker.

1889—No particular importance attached to the political canvass of 1889, and the primary elections and conventions were held with the usual routine of business, attended and controlled by the professional politicians. September 13, the Republican county convention was held in Rome, and Henry J. Coggeshall was nominated for senator, and Myron W. VanAuken for district attorney. A political fight within the party was made against the nomination of Mr. VanAuken, and the defeated party resented the way they thought they had been treated, at the polls. The Republicans also nominated for members of assembly, first district, James H. O'Connor; second district, George G. McAdam; third district, Russell S. Johnson. The Democrats nominated for senator, James H. Flanagan; for district attorney, Thomas S. Jones; and for members of assembly, first district, John S. Siegrist; second district, James T. Dempsey; third district, the Democrats had no candidate, but the Prohibitionists nominated Andrew Hurlburt. The result was that Coggeshall, Rep., was elected senator by a majority of 1,046, but the bolting Republicans against Mr. VanAuken defeated him for district attorney, and gave Jones, Dem., a majority of 2,164; for members of assembly, in the first district, O'Connor, Rep., received a plurality of 323; second district, Dempsey, Dem., received 297 plurality; third district, Johnson, Rep., over the Prohibition candidate, received 3,624.



## CHAPTER XVII.

1890—1899.

1890—The Republican congressional district, consisting of Oneida and Lewis counties, nominated for representative in Congress James S. Sherman, and the Democrats nominated Henry W. Bentley. The Republicans also nominated Theodore B. Davis for county treasurer, and for members of assembly, first district, James K. O'Connor; second district, Geo. G. McAdam; third district, Russell S. Johnson. The Democrats nominated for county treasurer Charles F. Barnard; for members of assembly, first district, Cornelius Haley; second district, James L. Dempsey; third district, Leonard E. Adsit. In this campaign the interest centered largely upon the candidates for representative in Congress. Mr. Sherman had been elected in 1888 over Mr. Spriggs, and had made changes in the post offices and other federal offices throughout the congressional district. This was accompanied by the usual disappointment of those who did not obtain positions, and it was resented by them at the polls. This feeling was manifested more strongly in the town of Westmoreland than in any other part of the congressional district. Mr. Sherman had been requested by some Republicans to appoint the wife of a deceased postmaster at Hampton, in the town of Westmoreland, who was a Democrat appointed by Mr. Cleveland, which he had refused to do, but made the appointment of one of the foremost citizens of the town. The result of the election was that whereas, the town should have given more than 100 Republican majority, it gave a majority for Mr. Bentley, and Mr. Bentley was elected by a plurality of 399. Barnard, Dem., was elected county treasurer by a plurality of 10, and the members of assembly, first district, Haley, Dem., received 715 plurality; second district, Dempsey, Dem., 168 plurality; third district, Johnson, Rep., 136 plurality.

1891—Governor David B. Hill, who had served as the executive of the state since the elevation of Cleveland to the presidency, was elected to the United States senate at the 1891 session of the legislature, but did not take his seat in Washington until January, 1892. He was the chief manipulator of Democratic politics in the state, and used his power to the aggrandizement of himself and his friends against all opposition. He procured the nomination in the Democratic state convention of Roswell P. Flower for governor, and for lieutenant governor William F. Sheehan. The Republicans nominated for governor J. Sloat Fassett, and for lieutenant governor John W. Vrooman. The local Republican ticket was for senator, Henry J. Coggeshall; for sheriff, Samuel H. Budlong; for county clerk, Rouse B. Maxfield; and for members of assembly, first district, T. Solomon Griffiths; second district, David C. Walcott; third district, C. Winfield Porter. The Democrats nominated for sena-



tor, Thomas E. Kinney; for sheriff, John C. Schreiber; for county clerk, Charles N. Felton; and for members of assembly, first district, Cornelius Haley; second district, Harry S. Patten; third district, Leonard E. Adsit. The result of the election in the state was the success of the Democratic party upon its state ticket, although Fassett, Rep., for governor received a plurality in the county of 266; Coggeshall, Rep., for senator, received a plurality of 1,567, while Schreiber, the Democratic candidate for sheriff, was elected by 1,240 plurality; Maxfield, Rep., for county clerk, received 91 plurality; and the members of assembly, first district, Haley, Dem., received 786 plurality; second district, Patten, Dem., 321 plurality; third district, Porter, Rep., 796 plurality.

1892—On September 8, 1892, occurred the death of ex-Senator Francis Kernan. It is not extraordinary praise to say of him that, with a single exception—Horatio Seymour—he was the most prominent Democratic politician who ever resided within the county of Oneida. A sketch of his life is given in another chapter of this work, but there was one thing about Mr. Kernan that should be said in this connection, which is this: He was an ardent partisan and never forsook his party, although he disapproved many times of its policy, and sometimes, also, of its candidates. During the reign of William Tweed, when Democratic politics were dictated by him in the state of New York, and during the corruptions in the legislature, Mr. Kernan was heard to say that, although he disapproved of the ticket and the policy many times, he thought it wiser to remain an active member of his own party or he would lose his influence for good. Perhaps this was a correct philosophy, and was exemplified in the life of Mr. Kernan, who invariably was on the side of economy and honesty in public office. His funeral occurred September 10, was attended by members of the bar, and every mark of respect was paid to his memory.

As 1892 was a year in which a president was to be elected, much interest was manifested upon the Democratic side as to the candidate. It was a foregone conclusion that President Harrison would be renominated, but it was also feared that he could not be elected, not because of any fault of his administration, but because of the passing of what was known as the McKinley Tariff Bill, which, it was claimed by the Democrats, raised duties to such an extent as to be injurious to the interests of the farmer and of the common people. President Harrison was renominated June 11, with Whitelaw Reid as the candidate for vice president. Grover Cleveland was nominated for the presidency by the Democrats with Adlai E. Stevenson for vice president. The Democrats made an aggressive campaign upon the tariff question, the people were frightened by the discussion of the McKinley law, and from the beginning of the canvass it was reasonably sure that Mr. Cleveland would be elected. For state engineer and surveyor the Democrats nominated Richard W. Sherman, of Utica; for representative in Congress, Henry W. Bentley; for county judge, Charles A. Talcott; for district attorney, Edward Lewis; for members of assembly, first district, Cornelius Haley; second district, Harry S. Patten. For representative in Congress the Republicans renominated James S. Sherman; and its county ticket consisted of Watson T. Dunmore for county judge; George S. Klock for district attorney; members of assembly, first district, Samuel S. Lowery; second district, C. Winfield Porter; by a re-apportionment



RESIDENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT JAMES S. SHERMAN



RESIDENCE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR FRANCIS KERNAN



of senators and assemblymen in the state, Oneida county was assigned two members instead of three. The result of the election was that Cleveland, Dem., was elected president; Sherman, Rep., elected representative in Congress by a plurality in Oneida county of 562; Dunmore, Rep., county judge, by 530 plurality; Klock, Rep., district attorney, by 2,190 plurality; and members of assembly, first district, Haley, Dem., by 138 plurality; second district, Porter, Rep., by 142 plurality.

It was during this year that the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America was celebrated. A very large meeting was held in the First Presbyterian Church in Utica to commemorate this notable occasion, and a very able address was delivered by the Hon. Ellis H. Roberts.

1893—The year 1893 was an uninteresting year for the politics of the county. The Republicans nominated for county treasurer, William E. Richards, and for members of assembly, first district, Henry T. Hoeffler; second district, Joseph Porter. As this was a year for the election of delegates to the constitutional convention, and as the statute provided that they should be elected by senatorial districts, the district consisting of Oneida, Lewis and Otsego counties required a convention of delegates from these three counties to make the nomination. The following ticket was nominated by the Republicans: Henry J. Cookinham, John C. Davies, of Oneida; Charles S. Mereness, of Lewis; and James W. Barnum and Abraham Kellogg, of Otsego. Henry J. Coggeshall was also nominated in this district for state senator. The Democrats nominated as delegates to the constitutional convention, Charles D. Adams, Thomas H. Stryker, Oscar F. Lane, Lowell S. Henry and T. Miller Reid; for state senator, Harry S. Patten; for county treasurer, Charles F. Barnard; for members of assembly, first district, Ernest J. Ellwood; second district, Charles N. Felton. No special interest was manifested in the election, although the most important part of it was the election of delegates to the Constitutional Convention. The convention of 1867 had submitted a revised constitution, but it was rejected by the people, except as to the judiciary article, which was adopted. A feeling was strong in the state in favor of a radical revision of the constitution, and the Republican candidates for delegates were elected and carried the county by more than 2,000 majority. Senator Coggeshall received a plurality of 2,279; Richards, Rep., for treasurer, 2,143; and the Republican assemblymen in both districts were elected, in the first district Hoeffler receiving a plurality of 1,583, and Porter, in the second district, a plurality of 1,273.

1894—The Constitutional Convention assembled in May, 1894, and the delegates from Oneida county were well treated in the organization, Mr. Davies being made chairman of committee on railroads, and Mr. Cookinham being placed upon the committees of the judiciary, privileges and elections and suffrage. At the close of the convention Mr. Cookinham was appointed chairman of a committee to draft an address to the people of the state explanatory of the new constitution. The constitution as revised made material changes, was adopted in the convention by a vote of 95 to 45, and was ratified by the people by a large majority. One radical change in this revised constitution was made in the system of representation. The apportionment of senators



was according to senatorial districts, but a provision was placed in the constitution that no city, no matter how great its population or how many counties it should consist of, should have more than one-half of the senators. This provision, it is apparent, was intended to prevent the city of New York ever having a majority vote in the senate. The Republican local ticket consisted of James S. Sherman, for representative in Congress; Van R. Weaver, for sheriff; Garry A. Willard, for county clerk; and for members of assembly, first district, Henry P. Hoefler, second district, William Carey Sanger. The Democrats nominated for representative in Congress, John D. Henderson; for sheriff, Adrian Lee; for county clerk, John C. Schreiber; and for members of assembly, first district, Thomas D. Watkins; second district, James L. Dempsey. The congressional district had been changed by a new apportionment, and Oneida and Herkimer counties now constituted the 23d district. The Republican state convention had nominated for governor, Levi P. Morton, and for lieutenant governor, Charles T. Saxton. The Democrats again placed before the people as a candidate for governor David B. Hill, and for lieutenant governor Daniel P. Lockwood. Hill was in the ascendency in his party, and unquestionably desired another candidate for governor, but it was difficult for him to induce a candidate of his liking to accept the nomination, and he was compelled to fill the position himself to hold his party together. This, however, was not entirely successful, for the anti-Hill element of the party nominated Everett P. Wheeler for governor, and adopted Daniel P. Lockwood for lieutenant governor. The result in the state was most disastrous to Hill, as he was defeated by an enormous majority. The result in Oneida county was a plurality for Morton, Rep., for governor of 3,717; Sherman, Rep., representative in Congress, 4,478 plurality; Weaver, Rep., candidate for sheriff, 4,387 plurality; Willard, Rep., county clerk, 3,457 plurality; the Republican members of assembly were elected as follows: first district, Hoefler, 2,236 plurality; second district, Sanger, 2,213 plurality.

1895—The most important office to be filled locally in 1895 was that of justice of the Supreme Court. Irving G. Vann of Onondaga, and William E. Scripture of Oneida, were nominated for this office upon the Republican ticket. The county ticket consisted of Frederick G. Weaver for senator, and George S. Klock for district attorney. The revised constitution having been adopted Oneida county was allotted three assemblymen instead of two, and the Republicans nominated in the first district, Henry P. Hoefler; second district, William Carey Sanger; third district, William B. Graves. At the Republican county convention held at Rome, Senator Coggeshall appeared and was supported by a minority of the convention. Having failed to obtain the coveted prize he bolted with others, and he was nominated for senator by the bolters, and adopted by the Democrats as their candidate for senator. The Democrats made no nomination against Vann for justice of the Supreme Court, but nominated Theodore L. R. Morgan against William E. Scripture. For district attorney, William J. Kernan; for members of assembly, first district, Walter Embly; second district, James L. Dempsey; third district, D. Francis Searle. The canvass during this year centered upon the candidates for senator. Mr. Coggeshall had received great favors from the Republican party—

no charge was made against the party because he was not nominated—he had been fairly defeated in the convention, but, refusing to submit to the will of the majority, he seized the occasion, and, unquestionably having been promised the support of the Democratic organization in case he should bolt the Republican convention, consented to this arrangement, and carried the county against Mr. Weaver by 4,763 majority. Scripture, for justice of the Supreme Court, received a majority in the county of 3,736, while Klock, Rep., for district attorney, carried the county by a majority of 3,794; the result upon members of assembly was, first district, Embly, Dem., 375 majority; second district, Sanger, Rep., 705 majority; third district, Graves, Rep., 1,141 majority.

1896—The defeat of President Harrison in 1892 was accomplished by the effective way the Democratic party had treated the McKinley tariff law, and after three years of Democratic control under Cleveland it would seem that the people came to the conclusion that they had made a grievous error, and at the Republican national convention William McKinley of Ohio, chairman of the committee that had framed the McKinley bill and the man from whom it derived its name, was nominated for president, with Garrett A. Hobart as the candidate for vice president. In New York state Frank S. Black was nominated for governor, with Timothy L. Woodruff for lieutenant governor. James S. Sherman was again nominated for representative in Congress by the Republicans; William E. Richards was renominated for county treasurer, and the assembly ticket consisted of, first district, George E. Philo; second district, William Carey Sanger; third district, William B. Graves. The Democrats nominated for president William J. Bryan, with Arthur Sewall for vice president; for governor, Wilbur F. Porter, and for lieutenant governor Frederick Schraub; for representative in Congress, Cornelius Haley; for county treasurer, Charles T. Hayden; for members of assembly, first district, Walter Embly; second district, Arnon G. Williams; third district, John J. Dooley. The canvass was made entirely upon the tariff issue, and McKinley, being the embodiment of the protection principle, had enthusiastic support from manufacturers generally throughout the country, and, as Oneida county is so largely interested in industries that require protection, he swept the county by the unprecedented plurality of 7,706, and Black received a majority of 5,607 for governor. Sherman was re-elected for Congress by a plurality of 7,283; Richards re-elected treasurer by 7,421; and the members of assembly, first district, Philo, Rep., received 1,101 plurality; second district, Sanger, 2,348 plurality; third district, Graves, 2,494 plurality. This unprecedented vote in Oneida county was due to the fact that after the election of Mr. Cleveland the Democrats had control of both branches of Congress and passed what was known as the Wilson tariff law, which was in principle a tariff “for revenue only” law, and it had caused a great financial depression, most favorable to the Republicans in the canvass, and undoubtedly produced an extraordinary result in every commercial and industrial center.

1897—The excitement over the election of 1896 had passed over, and again there came an off year in 1897. Little interest was felt in the election, and again the politicians had their own way in nominating whoever they saw fit,

and the people acquiesced in their choice. The Republicans nominated for sheriff, William H. Reese; for county clerk, George D. Frank; for members of assembly, first district, John Williams; second district, Louis M. Martin; third district, John E. Mason. The Democrats nominated for sheriff, Michael Doll; for county clerk, Joseph Wurz; and for members of assembly, first district, Cornelius Haley; second district, Daniel D. McElhenny; third district, John Singleton. The returns of the election showed that the county had been carried by the Republicans by large pluralities, Reese, for sheriff receiving 3,238; Frank, for county clerk, 3,665; and the members of assembly, first district, Williams, 430; second district, Martin, 1,410; third district, Mason, 1,719.

1898—The war between the United States and Spain had brought to the front a man, of whom it could not be said that he was unknown in New York politics at that time, but who came forward with tremendous strides until he became in the public eye the foremost American of the times—Theodore Roosevelt. He was nominated for governor by the Republicans in 1898, and Timothy L. Woodruff received the nomination for lieutenant governor. From this time onward Mr. Roosevelt was a potential element in the Republican party until the fall of 1910. The Republicans again renominated James S. Sherman for representative in Congress; and the Republican county convention apparently forgot the bolting of Mr. Coggeshall two years before, and nominated him again for state senator; for county judge, Watson T. Dunmore; for district attorney, Timothy Curtin and for members of assembly the Republicans nominated, first district, John Williams; second district, Louis M. Martin; third district, John E. Mason. The Democrats nominated Augustus VanWyck for governor, and Elliot Danforth for lieutenant governor; for representative in Congress, Walter Ballou; for senator, Thomas D. Watkins; for county judge, D. Francis Searle; for district attorney, James W. Rayhill; for members of assembly, first district, William J. Sullivan; second district, Joseph B. Cushman; third district, William S. Thomas. Mr. Roosevelt, who at the time was immensely popular in the state, made a canvass, and was received with every manifestation of enthusiastic support. Mr. VanWyck also made a canvass, and, although his party made a strenuous effort to carry the state, the Roosevelt ticket was successful. Mr. Roosevelt carried the county by a plurality of 1,377; Sherman by a vote of 1,906 plurality, but Senator Coggeshall's plurality dwindled down to 56; Dunmore, Rep., for county judge, 1,432 plurality; Curtin, Rep., for district attorney, 312 plurality; members of assembly, first district, Sullivan, Dem., 1,176 plurality; second district, Martin, Rep., 622 plurality; third district, Mason, Rep., 1,370 plurality.

1899—Nothing of importance in the political field occurred in 1899, and a light vote was cast at the election. The Republicans nominated General Rufus Daggett for county treasurer, and the assembly ticket consisted of, first district, William E. Richards; second district, Louis M. Martin; third district, Edward M. Marson. The Democrats nominated for county treasurer James H. Flanagan, and for members of assembly, first district, William Sullivan; second district, Joseph B. Cushman; third district, Frank Z. Jones. Flanagan, Dem., carried the county for treasurer by 280 plurality; members

of assembly, first district, Sullivan, Dem., 666 plurality; second district, Martin, Rep., 1,110 plurality; third district, Mason, Rep., 4,162 plurality.

It was during this year that Vice President Hobart died suddenly. He was a man of great ability, and up to that time there had scarcely been a vice president who had so impressed himself upon the public mind as Mr. Hobart. He died November 22, and due honors were paid to him because of his great worth and high position he occupied in the nation and in his party.



## CHAPTER XVIII

1900—1912

1900—The administration of President McKinley had been such that no Republican assumed to become a candidate against him for renomination. He was renominated at the Republican national convention, and Theodore Roosevelt was nominated for vice president. The Republicans nominated Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., for governor, and Timothy L. Woodruff for lieutenant governor; Robert MacKinnon was nominated for presidential elector; again James S. Sherman received the nomination for representative in Congress; and the Republican county convention nominated for senator, Garry A. Willard; for sheriff, Lincoln E. Brownell; for county clerk, Joseph Porter; and for members of assembly, first district, Michael J. McQuade; second district, Fred J. Brill; third district, Edward M. Marson. The Democrats nominated for president, William J. Bryan, and for vice president Adlai Stevenson; for governor John B. Stanchfield, and for lieutenant governor, William F. Mackey; for representative in Congress, Henry Martin; for senator, Leonard E. Adsit; for sheriff, William J. Sullivan; for county clerk, Robert Lockhart; for members of assembly, first district, Frank J. Bugental; second district, William J. Butler; third district, Omar R. Brayton. This campaign was very interesting because of the personality of Mr. Bryan. He had the peculiar notions upon finance which were not approved of by many of the leading men in his own party. He was a brilliant orator, and one of the most successful campaign speakers in the entire country, had been nominated against the judgment of men of his own party who were interested in large financial institutions, and they feared, if elected, he would undertake to carry out some of his, as they called them, visionary ideas. No question was ever made as to his honesty, and he was highly respected as a man. The large financial centers, however, could not support him, and in Oneida county the result was what might have been expected, that the county gave a very large Republican majority, and elected all of its candidates for minor offices. Mr. McKinley received a plurality in the county of 6,386; Odell, for governor, 5,066 plurality; Sherman, for representative in Congress; and the Republican county convention apparently sheriff, 3,367; Porter, for county clerk, 3,286; for members of assembly, first district, McQuade, 5,801; second district, Brill, 1,754; third district, Mason, 2,235.

1901—The greatest industrial event in the United States during the year 1901 was the holding of the Pan American Fair at Buffalo. Early in September President McKinley visited the fair, and in the great hall prepared for such occasions he delivered a very eloquent, statesmanlike and excellent address.



NEW YORK CENTRAL STATION, UTICA



A few moments after an assassin approached him, having a pistol concealed in his hand, and shot him. It can be said to the credit of the police that the assassin would have been torn in pieces except for their interference. Although the president lingered for a few days he died at Buffalo, and this made Theodore Roosevelt president of the United States. The death of McKinley produced a tremendous effect throughout the country, as he was admired by every one and was a conservative and safe ruler. Mr. Roosevelt was considered erratic, and for some time uncertainty reigned in financial affairs. A series of memorial services were held throughout the country, and a notable one in the First Presbyterian church in the city of Utica on September 19, which was addressed by Rev. Dr. Willard A. Bartlett, who was a personal friend of President McKinley. The political affairs in central New York, although much disturbed by the death of McKinley, moved on in their usual way, and local politicians took charge of the conventions and produced such results as they thought wise. The Republicans nominated for district attorney, Timothy Curtin; and the members of assembly were, first district, Michael J. McQuade; second district, Frederick J. Brill; third district, Edward M. Marson. The Democrats nominated Seymour E. Spinning for district attorney, and for members of assembly, first district, Thomas A. Mortimer; second district, George H. Green; third district, John B. Coughlin. No particular interest was manifested in this campaign, and the Republicans were successful, as they should be in a county which is so largely Republican, except in years when dissensions in that party hand over some of the offices to the Democrats. Curtin, for district attorney, received a plurality of 3,272; and the Republican members of assembly were elected as follows: first district, McQuade, 55 plurality; second district, Brill, 861 plurality; third district, Mason, 1,834 plurality.

1902—Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., had for several years been chairman of the Republican state committee. He was an ex-congressman, and was candidate for the Republican nomination for governor in 1902. Although he had bitter opponents in the party he succeeded in obtaining the nomination, and for lieutenant governor Frank W. Higgins was nominated. Higgins was a state senator, and a man of ability and high character. For representative in Congress James S. Sherman was again renominated. In the Republican county convention a bitter contest occurred over the nomination for senator, and William E. Lewis was finally the successful candidate, but his nomination was not received by a portion of the party with high favor. For county clerk the Republicans nominated Harry G. Lake; for treasurer, Henry W. Roberts; for members of assembly, first district, Michael J. McQuade; second district, Fred J. Brill, third district, John C. Evans. The Democratic party nominated for governor Bird S. Coler, and for lieutenant governor, Charles N. Bulger; for representative in Congress, Edward Lewis; for senator, William Townsend; for county clerk, Herman Clark; for treasurer, Leonard E. Adsit; for members of assembly, first district, Thomas A. Mortimer; second district, Edwin E. Dorn; third district, William H. Goetz. The campaign was carried on chiefly between the candidates for senator and clerk.



A bitter contest over the election of a justice of the Supreme Court in the Fifth judicial district occurred in this year. John C. Davies of Camden, this county, was nominated by the Republicans, which was distasteful to some of the party, who immediately took steps to put an independent candidate in the field. This was done by petition signed by, as was claimed, over two thousand electors. The independent candidate selected was Watson M. Rogers, of Watertown, who was also a Republican. He was endorsed by the Democratic party, and was elected by a majority of about ten thousand, carrying Oneida county by a majority of 1,788. Mr. Rogers was a lawyer of good standing, and had been district attorney of Jefferson county. Mr. Davies had twice been attorney general of the state, was prominent in the Republican party, and his experience in public affairs was far greater than that of Mr. Rogers.

The result of the election was to place Governor Odell again in the executive chair of state, although he carried Oneida county by only 163 plurality; Mr. Sherman, Rep., for representative in Congress, received 1,764 plurality; Townsend, Dem., for senator, received 221 plurality; Clark, Dem., for county clerk, 371 plurality; Roberts, Rep., for treasurer, 1,797 plurality; for members of assembly, first district, Mortimer, Dem., received 421 plurality; second district, Brill, Rep., 267 plurality; third district, Evans, Rep., 1,167 plurality.

1903—It was not all harmony in the Republican ranks as they approached their conventions in 1903. Sharp controversies were going on in regard to candidates, but the county convention settled this by the nomination of William T. Binks for sheriff, and for members of assembly, first district, Henry L. Gates; second district, Jay A. Pratt; third district, John C. Evans. The Democrats nominated for sheriff, Samuel H. Jones; for members of assembly, first district, Thomas A. Mortimer; second district, William H. Squires; third district, Charles J. Durr. As is frequently the case some particular candidate upon the ticket concentrates the work of the different parties, which sometimes occurs upon an office comparatively insignificant, but in this case they centered upon the office of sheriff, and the result was the election of Jones, the Democratic candidate, by a majority of 1,407; for members of assembly, first district, Mortimer, Dem., received 73 majority; second district, Pratt, Rep., 3 majority; third district, Evans, Rep., 886 majority.

1904—The administration of President Roosevelt, although disappointing to many Republicans, was of such a character as to commend him for renomination, and he received a unanimous renomination at the Republican national convention, and Charles W. Fairbanks was nominated for vice president. The Republican state convention nominated Lieutenant Governor Frank W. Higgins, for governor, and M. Linn Bruce for lieutenant governor. For representative in Congress James S. Sherman was renominated; for senator, Henry J. Coggeshall again appeared as the nominee of the Republican party; Emerson M. Willis was nominated for district attorney, and the assembly ticket was made up as follows: first district, Henry L. Gates; second district, Jay H. Pratt; third district, John C. Evans. The Democrats nominated for president Alton B. Parker, and for vice president, Henry Gassaway Davis; for governor, D. Cady Herriek, and for lieutenant governor, Francis Burton Harri-

son; for representative in Congress, Prof. William H. Squires; for senator, Howard C. Wiggins; for district attorney, P. H. Fitzgerald; for members of assembly, first district, Thomas A. Mortimer; second district, Albert C. Salisbury; third district, Dwight H. Colgrove. Parker proved to be a weak candidate, and made some mistakes by public utterances and communications to the press, and Mr. Roosevelt swept the country like a whirlwind. The Republicans elected their entire ticket in Oneida county by large pluralities. Mr. Roosevelt carried the county by 5,202; Higgins, for governor, by 2,084; Sherman, for representative in Congress, 3,591; Coggeshall, for senator, 1,972; Willis, for district attorney, 4,485; members of assembly, first district, Gates, 128; second district, Pratt, 857; third district, Evans, 1,851.

1905—For many years the Prohibition party has had a ticket in the field in Oneida county, sometimes nominating candidates for every office, and at other times nominating only for certain offices. There have been also for a number of years other tickets in the field, but the votes given to the candidates of these minor parties have been so insignificant that it is thought wise not to enter into that question here. The Prohibition vote has decreased instead of increasing, but it is altogether probable that some of the other parties will increase in numbers, as, for instance, the Socialistic party, which is a new party in this part of the country, although it is probably destined to cut quite a figure in politics in the future. After the strenuous campaign of 1904, the political energy seemed to have spent itself, and in 1905 but little interest was taken in the election. The Republicans nominated for county clerk, Alfred J. Bromley; for treasurer, Henry W. Roberts; and for members of assembly, first district, Henry L. Gates; second district, Jay H. Pratt; third district, John C. Evans. The Democrats nominated for county clerk, Gervase M. Flower; for treasurer, Robert C. Fehrmann; for members of assembly, first district, Louis F. Vogel; second district, John W. Spring; third district, Willard J. Teelin. It would seem that the Republicans had not forgotten to vote this year, although they took little interest in the election, and they made a clean sweep in the county, electing Bromley clerk by a plurality of 3,743; Roberts treasurer by 3,380; members of assembly, first district, Gates, 571; second district, Pratt, 1,337; third district, Evans, 1,099.

1906—The year 1906 brought to the front a new man in state politics on the Republican side—Charles E. Hughes, a lawyer of New York City, who had been selected to investigate the insurance companies, and had won quite a reputation in his work in that direction. He was Mr. Roosevelt's candidate for governor, and his selection was acquiesced in generally throughout the state, and he received the nomination, with M. Linn Bruce as the candidate for lieutenant governor. The Republicans nominated for justices of the Supreme Court in the Fifth judicial district Peter B. McClellan of Syracuse, and Pascal C. J. DeAngelis of Utica. Again James S. Sherman was nominated for representative in Congress; John C. Evans was nominated for senator; Fred E. Swancott for sheriff; and for members of assembly, first district, Merwin K. Hart; second district, Ladd J. Lewis, Jr.; third district, A. Grant Blue. The Democratic party in the state was rent asunder by the prominence which had been obtained by William Randolph Hearst, the proprietor of the

New York American. Many of the better class of Democrats opposed him as an improper man to be nominated for the office of governor, but, with his influence and with his paper at his back he succeeded in capturing the nomination, with Lewis Stuyvesant Chandler as the candidate for lieutenant governor; for justice of the Supreme Court the Democrats adopted Peter B. McClenman, because he was already a justice and had served fourteen years; and they nominated against Mr. DeAngelis, Owen M. Reilly; for representative in Congress, James K. O'Connor was nominated; for senator, Joseph C. Ackroyd; for sheriff, Frederick Gilmore; for members of assembly, first district, Louis F. Vogel; second district, John W. Bell; third district, Charles Knight. The canvass was intensely interesting. Mr. Hearst flooded the country with the most extraordinary literature. One of the most eventful circumstances in the campaign occurred at Utica. Mr. Elihu Root, who was secretary of state in the cabinet of President Roosevelt, came to Utica for the purpose of making a political speech. It was understood that Mr. Root voiced the sentiment of the national administration, and his speech was printed, not only in the principal papers of the state, but throughout the entire nation. It was a most extraordinary effort, and was such an arraignment of Mr. Hearst that no answer could be made. The plan of Mr. Hearst, in distributing his literature, was to follow Republican speakers with his emissaries; this was done in Utica, and his paper, bitterly attacking Republican candidates, the president and Mr. Root, was distributed in the streets by the thousands upon the night that Mr. Root delivered his address. But his methods seemed to work against him instead of in his favor, and were resented by many of the thinking Democrats. The result in the state was to give Hughes a large plurality, and he carried the county of Oneida by 3,420; DeAngelis, for justice of the Supreme Court, received 5,347 plurality; Sherman, for representative in Congress, 2,508 plurality; Ackroyd, Dem., for senator, received a plurality of 485; Gilmore, Dem., for sheriff, 529 plurality; the Republican members of assembly were elected as follows: first district, Hart, 149 plurality; second district, Lewis, 1,555 plurality; third district, Blue, 1,686 plurality.

1907—In 1907 the political situation had not been changed materially from the year before, and the canvass was carried on in its ordinary way in an off year. The Republicans nominated for district attorney, Emerson M. Willis, and for members of assembly, first district, Merwin K. Hart; second district, Ladd J. Lewis, Jr.; third district, A. Grant Blue. The Democrats nominated for district attorney William M. Arthur; for members of assembly, first district, Monroe C. Teller; second district, Frank T. Watson; third district, Charles Knight. As the Republican party was united in this election there was little hope for any of the candidates on the Democratic ticket, and Mr. Willis for district attorney carried the county by a plurality of 4,042; for members of assembly the result was as follows: first district, Hart, 1,510; second district, Lewis, 1,834; third district, Blue, 1,066.

1908—Again in 1908 the people were confronted with a presidential election. On the Republican side there was but one name that was prominent as the probable candidate for this office, and that was William Howard Taft of Ohio. Mr. Taft had served as judge of the circuit court of U. S., and



presiding judge of the circuit court of appeals; had been governor-general of the Philippine Islands; was secretary of war in President Roosevelt's cabinet, and was in good repute. It cannot be said, however, that his candidacy met with the general approval of the Republicans throughout the country. The President, however, had selected him as the candidate, and all the influence of the national administration in the hands of Mr. Roosevelt was used to secure his nomination, and this was accomplished and was accepted by the Republicans without serious disappointment. There were many candidates for the vice presidency. It cannot be said, however, that the successful candidate made himself a candidate at any time during the canvass. James S. Sherman of Utica had served five terms as representative in Congress, was among the most effective legislators in the house of representatives, extremely popular with his fellow members, and a majority of the Republicans of the House desired his nomination, although it was not desired by Mr. Roosevelt. The convention in making up the ticket, however, in its wisdom decided that Taft and Sherman would be the strongest combination that could be made, and Mr. Sherman, therefore, was nominated with great enthusiasm. On his return to Utica he was received with every mark of respect, Democrats as well as Republicans joining in the great reception tendered him. For Governor the Republicans renominated Charles E. Hughes, and for lieutenant governor Horace White, of Syracuse; the Republican congressional convention assembled at Herkimer and nominated Charles S. Millington, a banker of Herkimer, for representative in Congress, a man of excellent standing in the community; the Republicans also nominated for senator, Frederick M. Davenport; county clerk, Charles A. G. Scothorn; treasurer, James T. Somers; for members of assembly, first district, Merwin K. Hart; second district, Ladd J. Lewis, Jr.; third district, Robert C. Edwards. Again in the Democratic national convention Mr Bryan loomed up as the presidential candidate, and his party, against the judgment of many of its foremost men, were compelled to accept him, with John W. Kern as the candidate for vice president. For governor the Democrats nominated Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, with John A. Dix as the candidate for lieutenant governor; for representative in Congress, Curtis F. Alliaume; for senator, Joseph C. Ackroyd; for county clerk, John T. Evans; for treasurer, Charles H. Sullivan; for members of assembly, first district, John W. Manley; second district, George Benton; third district, Albert Kaufman. During the campaign the county was favored by a visit from the candidate for the presidency on the Republican side, and an immense crowd assembled at the Opera House in Utica to hear him, but it cannot be said that he added to his reputation by his address on that occasion. Mr. Sherman was called upon, and discussed the tariff question in a concise, well worded, short address, and after the meeting had ended the common talk in the audience was that the ticket would have been much stronger had it been reversed. Mr. Bryan also visited the county, spoke in Utica and Rome, and was received with enthusiasm. It must be said of him that he is one of the most effective speakers in the country, and invariably makes an excellent impression. The result of the election was a foregone conclusion in the state of New York, because the great industrial interests were disturbed by



the policies advocated by Mr. Bryan, and Taft and Sherman carried the county by a plurality of 4,192; Hughes, for governor, by 2,620 plurality; Millington, for representative in Congress, by 3,165; Davenport, Rep., for senator, 2,586; Scothorn, Rep., for county clerk, 3,845; Somers, Rep., for treasurer, 5,072; and members of assembly, first district, Manley, Dem., 595; second district, Lewis, Rep., 2,153; third district, Edwards, Rep., 1,566.

1909—The county of Oneida in 1909 was extremely agitated politically over the subject of nominating a justice of the Supreme Court. William E. Scripture had served for fourteen years, and he had given offense to the large corporate interests in the county by what they claimed was bias against their interests. It was also charged against him that he had given too much attention to politics, but no one questioned his integrity. A fierce attack, however, was made upon him in the county, and some prominent Republicans bitterly opposed his nomination. At the county convention held in Rome to elect delegates to the judicial convention Charles A. Miller of Utica made a bitter attack upon Judge Scripture, and threatened that in case he was nominated there would be a bolt of Republicans, and that Scripture would not be supported by the element which he represented. Judge Scripture was nominated by the convention held in Syracuse, but the delegates from the county of Lewis refused to vote to make his nomination unanimous. Edgar S. K. Merrell of Lowville was selected as the candidate in opposition to Mr. Scripture, although he had written a letter advocating the renomination of Judge Scripture. It can safely be said that it is the opinion of the bar that Mr. Merrell in no sense was the superior of Judge Scripture. The Republicans also nominated for sheriff Daniel P. Becker; for members of assembly, first district, Minard J. Fisher; second district, Herbert E. Allen; third district, James T. Cross. The Democrats nominated for sheriff, James T. Lockhard; for member of assembly, first district, John W. Manley; no assemblymen were nominated in the second and third districts. The result in the county was that Merrell, candidate for Supreme Court judge, received a plurality of 5,585, and was elected in the judicial district; Becker, Rep., for sheriff a plurality of 2,636; for members of assembly, first district, Manley, Dem., 1,081 plurality; as there was no Democratic candidate against Allen in the second district he received a plurality of 6,786; Cross, in the third district, also having no opposition, received 5,258 plurality.

1910—There were serious divisions in the Republican party in 1910. Vice President Sherman had been prominent in the councils of the party, and had not conceded to certain elements in the party the consideration they thought themselves entitled to, and an organization was effected known as the Republican league. The moving spirits in this league were ex-Attorney General John C. Davies, Hon. William Carey Sanger, Hon. Russell S. Johnson, Hon. Merwin K. Hart, and others prominent in Republican local politics. It was claimed that this organization was for the purpose of purifying politics and procuring the passage of a law in favor of direct primary elections. On the other hand, it was claimed that the sole object of the organization was to oppose what was desired politically by the Republican club of Utica. The feeling between these factions was very bitter, and was manifested by the

league in its opposition to Vice President Sherman and ex-Mayor Wheeler. The Republican state committee met in New York and selected the vice president as temporary chairman of the approaching state convention at Saratoga. In this meeting a member proposed that ex-President Roosevelt should be nominated instead of the vice president. This motion was made after the vice president had been nominated. The vote, however, in the committee, was in favor of Mr. Sherman, and Mr. Roosevelt was highly indignant at his defeat. He instituted a vigorous canvass to procure the election of delegates to the state convention who were favorable to him. It may be said that no more bitter contest for delegates ever occurred in the state of New York than that precipitated by Mr. Roosevelt. He put himself in communication with members of the Republican league in Utica, and sought to prevent the vice president being a delegate in the state convention. This combination placed an opposition ticket in the field in Mr. Sherman's own ward and also in his assembly district. The opposition ticket in the ward consisted of Charles H. Searle, William H. Start, Charles B. Tefft, George W. Miller, William G. Edwards, Edmund J. Wager, John P. Williams, George W. Chapman, E. L. Hoekridge and Alfred J. Bromley. It was said at the time that many of these opponents to Mr. Sherman took the position they did because, during Mr. Sherman's long service in public life, he had not supported them in their political ambitions. However that may be, there were enough votes against him to carry the vice president's ward against him, and the assembly district convention also contained a sufficient number of opposing delegates to send a delegation to the state convention opposed to the vice president. Mr. Roosevelt, in a telegram, congratulated his supporters in Oneida county at their success. Mr. Sherman was sent as a delegate from the first district, instead of from the district in which he resided. When Mr. Sherman left Utica to attend the convention at Saratoga a large number of citizens, calling themselves "Sherman's Friends" accompanied him, while the opponents of the vice president, calling themselves "Roosevelt's Boomers" went to the convention in considerable numbers. On reaching Saratoga the vice president was called upon for a speech, and he spoke to a crowd in the park in a happy vein, declaring himself to be a Republican, and virtually saying that he was willing to abide by a majority vote. Mr. Roosevelt, on his way to the convention, was greeted by a large number of people wherever he stopped, and spoke in bitter terms of his opponents. He declared that he had them "beaten to a frazzle." He also said that he was making the fight against the bosses. In commenting upon this the Utica Daily Observer of August 29, called attention to the fact that a large number of those Mr. Roosevelt called "bosses" had been appointed to the offices which they had filled by Mr. Roosevelt himself. The Observer said that Mr. Barnes was made surveyor of the port of Albany, Mr. Merritt was made postmaster at Washington, D. C., and collector at Niagara Falls, Mr. O'Brien collector at Plattsburg, Mr. Hendricks superintendent of insurance, Mr. Ward a member of the national Republican committee, and Mr. Wadsworth speaker of the assembly by Mr. Roosevelt himself. All of these men were at the convention opposed to Mr. Roosevelt, and he, therefore, denominated them as "bosses." Mr. Roosevelt

controlled this convention and was elected temporary chairman by a vote of 568 to 443 for Mr. Sherman. It had been charged that when Mr. Sherman was elected by the state committee as the temporary chairman of the convention it was done through some misrepresentation, but at Saratoga, just prior to the meeting of the convention, there was a meeting of the state committee at which it was unanimously determined that such was not the case, and the action of the committee in selecting Mr. Sherman at the prior meeting was reaffirmed by a vote of 22 to 15. Mr. Roosevelt procured the passage of a resolution through the convention changing the method of selecting the members of the Republican state committee. Prior to this time it was always accomplished by the delegates from the congressional district selecting the member of the committee from each district. At Mr. Roosevelt's instigation a resolution was passed giving to the temporary chairman of the convention the right to select a committee from the delegates from each congressional district, which committee was to name the members of the state committee. It was charged by his opponents that of all acts this was the most arbitrary of anything that had ever occurred in a Republican state convention. The selection of the state ticket was dictated entirely by Mr. Roosevelt, and was made up of Henry L. Stimson for governor, and Edward Schoeneck for lieutenant governor. Mr. Roosevelt procured his nephew, Douglass Robinson, whose father has a summer home in Herkimer, to become a candidate for representative in Congress against him at the election. The Republicans nominated for county judge, without serious trouble in the Republican district congressional convention, but it was apparent from the beginning that the Roosevelt influence would be against him at the election. The Republicans nominated for county judge, George E. Pritchard; renominated for senator, Frederick M. Davenport; for district attorney, Bradley Fuller; comptroller, a new office in the county, Charles H. Watters; for members of assembly, first district, John C. Dillon; second district, Herbert E. Allen; third district, James T. Cross. It was apparent from the beginning that the Republican party was sadly shattered by what had occurred at the state convention, and the prospects were gloomy for success in the state and in the congressional districts. The Democrats were harmonious, and after many consultations to fix upon a proper candidate for governor they finally selected John A. Dix for that office, and for lieutenant governor Thomas F. Conway. They nominated for representative in Congress, Charles A. Talcott; for county judge, Frederick H. Hazard; for senator, T. Harvey Ferris; for district attorney, William S. Mackie; for comptroller, Jeremiah H. Carroll; for members of assembly, first district, John W. Manley; second district, Fred W. Wasmuth; third district, Robert G. Jones. A vigorous campaign was carried on throughout the entire state by both parties. A special effort was made in Oneida county to hold up the Republican vote, but it was uphill work, and, although Mr. Sherman supported the ticket, the feeling of resentment was so great in the county that the Democratic party was substantially successful at the election, carrying the state and most of the congressional districts, and getting a majority in both houses of the legislature. Dix carried the county by a plurality of 882, and Talcott, for representative in Congress, by a plurality of 2,826. It was evi-



dent that the Republican League supported Mr. Talcott instead of Mr. Millington. Senator Ferris, Dem., received a plurality of 791 against Mr. Davenport; Hazard, Dem., for county judge, received 580 plurality; Fuller, Rep., for district attorney carried the county by 919 plurality; Carroll, Dem., was elected comptroller by 768 plurality; and the members of assembly, first district, Manley, Dem., was elected by 1,521 plurality; second district, Allen, Rep., by 1,106 plurality; third district, Cross, Rep., by 961 plurality. Mr. Roosevelt's congressional district and town gave a majority against his ticket, and when this was determined the Democrats in his own town started the cry, "We have beaten him to a frazzle."

1911—The political situation in the county in this year was more favorable to the Republicans than in 1910. The differences between Vice President Sherman and ex-President Roosevelt, which divided the party in 1910, were held in abeyance in the fall of 1911. The Republicans held their caucuses and the wing of the party favorable to Mr. Sherman was successful, carrying every town and ward in the county. The county convention was harmonious and made the following nominations: For county clerk, Charles A. G. Scothorn, who had served in that office for three years, it being the first instance in many years when a county clerk was renominated. James T. Somers, who had served one term as county treasurer, was renominated; for coroner, Priece Lewis. For members of assembly, first district, Ralph Entwistle; second district, Herbert E. Allen, renominated; third district, James T. Cross, renominated.

Allan S. Pirnie, a Republican, had been a candidate for the nomination of county clerk in the Republican convention, but was defeated by Mr. Scothorn. He afterward accepted the nomination on the Democratic ticket for the same office. Jacob H. Bohrer was nominated for county treasurer by the Democrats, and Dr. H. J. Haberer for coroner. For members of assembly, first district, John W. Manley; second district, Charles J. Amrhein; third district, John F. Clark. Two other county tickets were in the field, the Socialist and Independence league. The Socialists nominated for county clerk, Edward Stansfield; for county treasurer, Frank VanAlstyne; for coroner, Herman Jacob; for members of assembly, first district, Henry J. Grant; second district, Max Jahn; third district, B. F. Ouderkirk. The ticket nominated by the Independence league was made up partially from the Republican ticket and partially from the Democratic ticket, as follows: for county clerk, Charles A. G. Scothorn; county treasurer, James T. Somers; both Republicans; for coroner, Dr. H. J. Haberer, a Democrat. This party made no nominations for members of assembly.

The campaign was carried on enthusiastically by the Republicans, particularly in the city of Utica, as the ticket which had been nominated was a popular one, and a sufficient amount of attention was given to the county ticket to get out a comparatively full vote for an off year. The result in the county was the election of the entire Republican county ticket, by the following majorities: For county clerk, Charles A. G. Scothorn, Rep., received a plurality of 2,105; for county treasurer, James T. Somers, Rep., received a plurality of 3,105; for coroner, Priece Lewis, Rep., 2,036 plurality; for members



of assembly, first district, Ralph Entwistle, Rep., 131 plurality; second district, Herbert E. Allen, Rep., 1,645 plurality; third district, James T. Cross, Rep., 1,078 plurality. In regard to the election of justice of the Supreme Court for the fifth judicial district, Oneida county gave Edgar C. Emerson, the Republican candidate, who resides in Watertown, a majority of 1,771 over Henry Pureell, the Democratic candidate, who also resides in Watertown; and Henry Pureell received a plurality of 522 over Irving G. Hubbs, Republican, who resides in Pulaski; but in the judicial district Mr. Emerson and Mr. Hubbs were elected by substantial majorities.

## CHAPTER XIX

### PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND STATISTICS

Oneida county from its organization has been one of the most important in the Empire state. National and state offices have been filled by her sons with marked ability and distinguished honor, from constable to the high position of president of the United States, and from justice of the peace to governor of the commonwealth. Despite the probability of criticism for occupying so much space with a list of names, but presuming that many will desire at times to examine it, the following list is given of men who have been residents of Oneida county, and who have filled important offices under the federal and state government and also within the county. The offices which pertain especially to the courts of the county are given in another chapter under the heading, "Courts, Bench and Bar."

Member of Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence—William Floyd.

President of the United States—Grover Cleveland, elected in 1884 and 1892.

Horatio Seymour, Democratic presidential candidate in 1868, but not elected.

Vice President of the United States—James S. Sherman, elected 1908.

Secretary of State for the United States—Elihu Root, appointed March 4, 1905.

Secretary of War of the United States—Elihu Root, appointed August 1, 1899; re-appointed February 1, 1903.

Assistant Secretary of War of the United States—William Carey Sanger, appointed March 14, 1901-03.

Postmaster General of the United States—Gordon Granger, appointed under Presidents Jefferson and Madison, and held the position prior to becoming a resident of Oneida county; Thomas L. James, appointed, 1881.

Treasurer of the United States—Ellis H. Roberts, appointed 1897 to 1905.

Assistant Treasurer of the United States—Ellis H. Roberts, appointed 1889 to 1903; Daniel Butterfield, appointed in 1869.

### UNITED STATES SENATORS

Henry A. Foster, Rome, N. Y., Nov. 30, 1837; appointed in place of Silas Wright by the governor during recess of the legislature.

Roseoe Conkling, Utica, January 15, 1867; re-appointed January, 1873; 1879.

Francis Kernan, Utica, January, 1875.

Elihu Root, Clinton, 1909.

## POSTMASTER OF GREATER NEW YORK

Thomas L. James, 1873-81.

## CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

The United States constitution directs that a census of the inhabitants be taken every tenth year, commencing with 1790, and after each enumeration Congress apportions the representatives pro rata among the several states. As soon thereafter as practicable the legislature divides the state into congressional districts. The ratio of apportionment and number of representatives for the state of New York since the adoption of the constitution in 1788, have been as follows:

Years	Ratio	Representation
1789.....	30,000	6
1792.....	33,000	10
1802.....	33,000	17
1811.....	35,000	27
1822.....	40,000	34
1832.....	47,700	40
1842.....	70,680	34
1852.....	93,423	33
1861.....	127,381	31
1872.....	131,427	33
1880.....	134,000	34
1900.....	194,182	37
1910.....	211,877	43

The following are the districts, with their numbers, which have included Oneida county:

Under act of March 23, 1797: District No. 9, Chenango (1798), Herkimer, Montgomery, Oneida (1798).

Under act of March 30, 1802: District No. 15, Herkimer, Oneida, St. Lawrence.

Under act of March 20, 1804: District No. 15, Herkimer, Jefferson (1805), Lewis (1805), Oneida, St. Lawrence.

Under act of March 8, 1808: District No. 11, Madison, Oneida.

Under act of June 10, 1812: District No. 16, Oneida, part of Oswego (1816).

Under act of April 17, 1822: District No. 14, Oneida county.

Under act of June 29, 1832: District No. 17, Oneida and Oswego, two members.

Under act of September 6, 1842: District No. 20, Oneida county.

Under act of July 19, 1851: the same.

Under act of April 23, 1862: number changed to 21.

Under act of June 18, 1873: number changed to 23.

Under act of May 16, 1883: District No. 23, Oneida and Lewis.

Under act of April 27, 1901, District No. 27, Oneida and Herkimer.



Timothy Jenkins



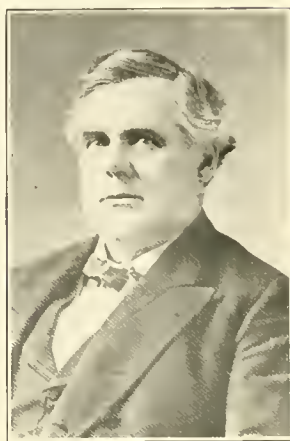
Joshua A. Spencer



Orsamus B. Mafteson



Hon. A. H. Bailey



J. Thomas Spriggs



Cyrus D. Prescott



Charles A. Talcott



Henry W. Bentley

REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS



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PUBLIC

AND  
R

## REPRESENTATIVES

Jonas Platt, Whitesboro, 1799-1801, Sixth Congress.

Benjamin Walker, Utica, 1801-3, Seventh Congress.

Nathan Williams, Utica, 1805-7, Ninth Congress.

Thomas R. Gold, Whitestown, 1809-11, Eleventh Congress; 1811-13, Twelfth Congress; 1815-17, Fourteenth Congress.

Morris S. Miller, Utica, 1813-15, Thirteenth Congress.

Henry R. Storrs, Whitesboro, 1817-19, Fifteenth Congress; 1819-21, Sixteenth Congress; 1823-25, Eighteenth Congress; 1825-27, Nineteenth Congress; 1827-29, Twentieth Congress; 1829-31, Twenty-first Congress.

Joseph Kirkland, Utica, 1821-23, Seventeenth Congress.

Samuel Beardsley, Utica, 1831-33, Twenty-second Congress; 1833-35, Twenty-third Congress; 1835-37, Twenty-fourth Congress; 1843-44, Twenty-eighth Congress.

Henry A. Foster, Rome, 1837-39, Twenty-fifth Congress.

John G. Floyd, Utica, 1839-41, Twenty-sixth Congress; 1841-43, Twenty-seventh Congress.

Timothy Jenkins, Oneida Castle, 1845-47, Twenty-ninth Congress; 1847-49, Thirtieth Congress; 1851-53, Thirty-second Congress.

Orsamus B. Matteson, Utica, 1849-51, Thirty-first Congress; 1853-55, Thirty-third Congress; 1855-57, Thirty-fourth Congress; 1857-59, Thirty-fifth Congress.

Roscoe Conkling, Utica, 1859-61, Thirty-sixth Congress; 1861-63, Thirty-seventh Congress; 1865-67, Thirty-ninth Congress.

Francis Kernan, Utica, 1863-65, Thirty-eighth Congress.

Alexander H. Bailey, Rome, 1867-69, Fortieth Congress; 1869-71, Forty-first Congress.

Ellis H. Roberts, Utica, 1871-73, Forty-second Congress; 1873-75, Forty-third Congress.

Scott Lord, Utica, 1875-77, Forty-fourth Congress.

William J. Bacon, Utica, 1877-79, Forty-fifth Congress.

Cyrus D. Prescott, Rome, elected 1878, 1880, district, Oneida.

J. Thomas Spriggs, Utica, elected 1882, district, Oneida; 1884, district, Oneida and Lewis.

James S. Sherman, Utica, elected, 1886, 1888, 1892, district, Oneida and Lewis..

Henry W. Bentley, Boonville, elected 1890, district, Oneida and Lewis.

James S. Sherman, Utica, elected, 1894, 1896, 1898, 1900, 1902, 1904, 1906, district, Oneida, and Herkimer.

Charles A. Talcott, Utica, elected 1910, district, Oneida and Herkimer.

## PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

These were appointed by the legislature from 1792 until 1825, since which they have been elected by the people. They were elected under the district system at one election only. The legislature passed an act April 15, 1829, under which they have since been elected on a general ticket, made up of one

from each congressional district, and two to represent the state at large. In 1872 there were three at large, one to represent a congressman at large, before redistricting the state.

#### APPOINTED BY LEGISLATURE

1804, William Floyd; 1808, Henry Huntington; 1812, Henry Huntington, James S. Kip; 1816, Montgomery Hunt; 1820, William Floyd, Henry Wager; 1824, Samuel Hicks.

#### ELECTED BY DISTRICTS

1828, Ebenezer B. Shearman.

#### ELECTED BY GENERAL TICKET

1832, David Moulton; 1836, Parker Halleek; 1840, John J. Knox; 1844, Thomas H. Hubbard; 1848, William B. Welles; 1852, Thomas H. Hubbard; 1856, James S. Lyneh; 1860, Benjamin N. Huntington; 1864, John J. Knox; 1868, James MeQuade; 1872, Samuel Campbell; 1876, James MeQuade; 1892, Alexander T. Goodwin; 1900, Robert MacKennon; 1904, Wilfrid Hartley; 1908, William Cary Sanger.

#### STATE OFFICERS

Governor—Horatio Seymour, elected 1852 and 1862.

Council of Appointment—Abolished 1821, Thomas R. Gold, Henry Huntington, Jonas Platt and Henry Seymour.

Private Secretary of the Governor—Horatio Seymour, private secretary of Governor DeWitt Clinton; John F. Seymour, appointed 1863 private secretary of Governor Horatio Seymour.

Aide-de-Camp—Colonel James MeQuade.

Surgeon-General—William H. Watson, appointed 1880; M. O. Terry, appointed 1895.

State Engineer and Surveyor—John T. Clark, 1853; William B. Taylor, 1861, 1871; J. Platt Goodsell, 1865; Horatio Seymour, Jr., 1877-79; Campbell W. Adams, 1893-95.

Canal Commissioners—Ephraim Hart, 1818; Henry Seymour, 1819; S. Newton Dexter, 1840.

Canal Appraisers—Chester Hayden, 1843; Charles M. Dennison, 1880.

Bank Commissioner—Hiram Denio, April 10, 1838.

Inspector of State Prisons—Wesley Bailey, Nov. 4, 1856.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction—Abram B. Weaver, April 7, 1868.

Regents of the University—Frederick William, Baron de Steuben, April 13, 1787; Nathan Williams, January 28, 1817; George R. Perkins, January 30, 1862; Alexander S. Johnson, April 12, 1864; Francis Kernan, February 10, 1870; William H. Watson, 1880.

Railroad Commissioners—John D. Kernan, 1883-7; Michael Riekard, 1887; Samuel A. Beardsley, 1902-7.

- Principal of State Normal School—George R. Perkins, January 12, 1848.  
Commissioner of Public Charities—John C. Devereux, February 11, 1874.  
Commissioner of Labor—John Williams, October 3, 1907.  
State Civil Service Commissioner—E. Prentiss Bailey, January 10, 1893.  
Commissioner of Gas and Electricity—John C. Davies, July 1905.  
Member of Commission on State Survey—Horatio Seymour, August 29, 1876.  
Commissioner of Quarantine—Horatio Seymour, 1859.  
Commissioners of Fisheries—Horatio Seymour, April 22, 1868; R. U. Sherman, January 2, 1879.  
State Dairy Commissioner—Josiah K. Brown, 1884.  
Commissioner State Reservation at Niagara Falls—Daniel Batchelor, February 12, 1889.  
Commissioner State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva—Daniel Batchelor, 1891.  
Universal Exhibition Commissioner—Thomas R. Proctor, December 23, 1898.  
State Factory Inspector—John Williams, April 12, 1899.  
Commissioner of State Parks—Horatio Seymour, May 23, 1872.  
Trustee of New York State Soldiers' and Sailors' Home—Thomas R. Proctor, February 5, 1900.  
State Commissioner in Lunacy—William Carey Sanger, February 10, 1910.  
Clerks of the Assembly—Richard U. Sherman, 1851-6; Joseph B. Cushman, 1862-6.  
Chief Game and Fish Protector—Frederick P. Drew, 1900.  
Fish and Game Protectors—William P. Dodge, 1880; Nathan C. Phelps, 1883; Frederick P. Drew, 1884; R. M. Rush, 1895; Pliny B. Seymour, 1906; H. Roberts, 1910.  
Major detailed to serve on Staff of Governor Frank Higgins—Henry J. Cookinham, Jr., 1904.  
Chief Engineer of Conservation Commission—Richard W. Sherman, 1911.

## LEGISLATIVE

## SENATE

Under the first constitution the senate consisted of 24 members, apportioned among four great districts. After the first election they were divided by lot into four classes, so that the terms of six should expire each year. An additional senator was to be added to each district whenever, by a septennial census, it was shown that the number of electors in the district had increased one-twenty-fourth. This increase was to be allowed until the number reached 100. The census of 1795 made the number 43. In 1801, the rule being found unequal in its operation, the constitution was amended so as to fix the number permanently at 32, where it remained until 1894.

Under the first constitution the state was divided into four great senatorial districts, entitled Southern, Middle, Eastern and Western Districts. The number of senators from each district varied according to the acts of assembly passed at different times.



Under the second constitution (1821) the state was divided into eight great senatorial districts, each of which was entitled to four senators.

Under the constitution of 1846 the state was divided into thirty-two senatorial districts, and this arrangement continued to 1894, the districts being rearranged after each state census according to the population. The term of service under the new constitution was reduced to two years.

Senatorial Districts—Oneida county was a part of the Western district, under the first constitution. Under the second constitution it formed a part of the Fifth district. Under the constitution of 1846 it formed the Nineteenth district. In 1892, Oneida, Lewis and Otsego counties formed the 23d district, but by the constitution of 1894 Oneida county was again made a district by itself, the 34th, and the number of senators in the state increased from 32 to 50.

#### SENATORS—1797-1847

Thomas R. Gold, Whitesboro, Western District, 1797-1802.  
 Jedediah Sanger, New Hartford, Western District, 1797-1804.  
 Henry Huntington, Rome, Western District, 1805-7.  
 William Floyd, Western, Western District, 1808.  
 Francis A. Bloodgood, Utica, Western District, 1809-16.  
 Jonas Platt, Whitesboro, Western District, 1810-13.  
 Ephraim Hart, Utica, Western District, 1817-22.  
 Samuel Beardsley, Utica, Fifth District, 1823.  
 George Brayton, Western, Fifth District, 1825-26.  
 Truman Enos, Westmoreland, Fifth District, 1827-30.  
 William H. Maynard, Utica, Fifth District, 1829-32.  
 Henry A. Foster, Rome, Fifth District, 1831-34. 1841-44.  
 David Wager, Utica, Fifth District, 1836-40.  
 Joshua A. Spencer, Utica, Fifth District, 1846-47.

#### SENATORS UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF 1846

Thomas E. Clark, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1848-49.  
 Charles A. Mann, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1850-51.  
 Benjamin N. Huntington, Rome, Nineteenth District, 1851-53.  
 Daniel G. Dorrance, Florence, Nineteenth District, 1854-55.  
 Eaton J. Richardson, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1856-57.  
 Abriek Hubbell, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1858-59.  
 William H. Ferry, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1860-61.  
 Alexander H. Bailey, Rome, Nineteenth District, 1862-65.  
 Samuel Campbell, New York Mills, Nineteenth District, 1866-69.  
 George H. Sanford, Rome, Nineteenth District, 1870-71.  
 Samuel S. Lowery, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1872-74.  
 Theodore S. Sayre, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1875-76.  
 Alexander T. Goodwin, Utica, Nineteenth District, 1877-78.  
 James Stevens, Rome, Nineteenth District, 1879.  
 Robert H. Roberts, Boonville, Nineteenth District, 1881.  
 Henry J. Coggeshall, Waterville, Nineteenth District, 1883-96.  
 Henry J. Coggeshall, Thirty-fourth District, 1898.

Garry A. Willard, Boonville, Thirty-fourth District, 1900.  
William Townsend, Utica, Thirty-fourth District, 1902.  
Henry J. Coggeshall, Waterville, Thirty-fourth District, 1904.  
Joseph Aekroyd, Utica, Thirty-fourth District, 1906.  
Frederick M. Davenport, Clinton, Thirty-fourth District, 1908.  
T. Harvey Ferris, Utica, Thirty-fourth District, 1910.

## ASSEMBLY—1798 TO 1847

The assembly has always been chosen annually. It consisted at first of 70 members, with the power to increase one with every seventieth increase of the numbers of electors until it contained 300 members. When the constitution was amended in 1801 the number had reached 108, when it was reduced to 100, with a provision that it should be increased after each census at the rate of two annually, until the number reached 150. This increase was 12 in 1808 and 14 in 1815. The constitution of 1821 fixed the number permanently at 128. Members were elected on a single ticket, which has been since continued.

No change can be made in the representation of counties between the period fixed by the constitution for the apportionment based upon the census taken in years ending in 5. Counties erected from parts of other counties, or embracing parts of different election districts, between these periods cannot have a separate representation until the next apportionment. The Legislature apportions to each county its relative number of members, and the boards of supervisors divide the towns and wards into assembly districts.

The constitution of 1846 required the boards of supervisors of the several counties to meet on the first Tuesday of January succeeding the adoption of the constitution, and divide the counties into districts of the number apportioned to them, of convenient and contiguous territory, and as nearly equal population as possible. After each state census the legislature is required to re-apportion the members and to direct the time when the supervisors shall meet for the purpose of redistricting. The constitution of 1894 increased the number of assemblymen of the state to 150, and the apportionment of a county entitled to more than one member of assembly was left with the board of supervisors, and under this apportionment Oneida county was entitled to three members.

1798—Abel French, Henry McNeil, David Ostrom.

1800—John Hall, David Ostrom, Nathan Smith.

1800-1—Jesse Curtiss, Abel French, David Ostrom.

1802—Joel Bristol, Abel French, David Ostrom.

1803—James Dean, Sr., Abel French, John Lay, Aaron Morse.

1804—David Coffeen, Joseph Kirkland, David Ostrom, Abraham VanEps.

1804-5—Geo. Brayton, Jos. Jennings, Jos. Kirkland, Benj. Wright.

1806—George Brayton, Thomas Hart, Joseph Jennings.

1807—George Brayton, Uri Doolittle, Charles Z. Pratt.

1808—Thomas R. Gold, Henry McNeil, Benjamin Wright.

1809—Joel Bristol, James Dean, Sr., David Ostrom, John Storrs, Benjamin Wright.

1810—Levi Carpenter, Jr., Samuel Chandler, John Humaston, David Ostrom, John Storrs.

1811—Isaac Brayton, George Doolittle, George Huntington, Henry McNeil, John Storrs.

1812—Isaac Brayton, Joel Bristol, Erastus Clark, George Huntington, John Storrs.

1813—Josiah Baeon, Erastus Clark, George Huntington, John Lay, Nathan Townsend.

1814—Isaac Brayton, Laurens Hull, James Lynch, Henry McNeil, Theodore Sill.

1815—Theodore Sill, John Lay, James Lynch, Rufus Pettibone, John Storrs.

1816—Isaac Brayton, Jesse Curtiss, James Lynch, Roderick Morrison, Richard Sanger.

1817—David I. Ambler, Wheeler Barnes, Abram Camp, Martin Hawley, Henry Huntington, Newton Marsh.

1818—George Brayton, Henry Huntington, Joseph Kirkland, Nathan Williams, Theodore Woodruffe.

1819—(Oneida and Oswego) Ezekiel Baeon, Luther Guiteau, David P. Hoyt, George Huntington, Theodore Woodruffe.

1820—(Oneida and Oswego) James Dean, Jr., George Huntington, Henry McNeil, Theophilus S. Morgan, John Storrs.

1821—(Oneida and Oswego) Josiah Bacon, Allen Fraser, George Huntington, Joseph Kirkland, William Root.

1822—(Oneida and Oswego) Green C. Bronson, Saml. Chandler, George Huntington, Peter Pratt, Israel Stoddard.

1823—(Oneida) Uri Doolittle, Thomas H. Hamilton, Jesse Lynch, Henry Wager, Samuel Wetmore.

1824—Joseph Allen, Apollos Cooper, Joseph Grant, John Ruger, Henry Wager.

1825—Joseph Kirkland, David Pierson, Israel Stoddard, Broughton White, Samuel Woodworth.

1826—Aaron Barnes, Russell Clark, Laurens Hull, Theodore Sill, Israel Stoddard.

1827—John Billings, W. H. Chandler, Benjamin P. Johnson, John Parker, Theodore Sill.

1828—Gardiner Avery, S. Sidney Breese, Thomas E. Clark, Benj. P. Johnson, Eli Savage.

1829—Reuben Baeon, Benj. P. Johnson, Eli Savage, Reuben Tower, Fortune C. White.

1830—Arnon Comstock, Linus Parker, Elisha Pettibone, Eli Savage, Ithal Thompson.

1831—Reuben Bettis, Arnon Comstock, David Moulton, Riley Shepard, John F. Trowbridge.

1832—Nathaniel Fitch, Lemuel Hough, Rutger B. Miller, David Moulton, Daniel Twitchell.

1833—Ichabod C. Baker, Levi Buckingham, John Dewey, Squire Utey, David Wager.

1834—Pomroy Jones, Israel S. Parker, Hiram Shays, Aaron Stafford, Ithal Thompson.

1835—Merit Brooks, Dan P. Cadwell, Riley Shepard, David Wager, Amos Woodworth.

1836—Henry Graves, John W. Hale, William Knight, Jared C. Pettibone, John Stryker.

1837—Levi Buckingham, John I. Cook, Lester N. Fowler, Andrew S. Pond.

1838—Russell Fuller, Henry Hearsay, Fortune C. White, James S. T. Stranahan.

1839—Jesse Armstrong, Ward Hunt, Amasa S. Newberry, Israel Stoddard.

1840—Nelson Dawley, Anson Knibloe, Charles A. Mann, John F. Trowbridge.

1841—Calvin Dawley, Joseph Halleek, Luke Hitchcock, Nathaniel Odell.

1842—Ichabod C. Baker, Ebenezer Robbins, Horatio Seymour, DeWitt C. Stevens.

1843—Dan P. Cadwell, Amos S. Fassett, David Murray, John H. Tower.

1844—Justus Childs, James Douglass, Richard Empey, Horatio Seymour.

1845—Andrew Billings, Merit Brooks, Calvert Comstock, Horatio Seymour.

1846—Chauneey C. Cook, Benjamin F. Cooper, Daniel G. Dorrance, Russell Fuller.

1847—Nathan Burchard, Abel E. Chandler, Isaac Curry, John Dean.

#### UNDER CONSTITUTION OF 1846

##### *First District*

1848—Luke Smith

1849—Oliver Preseott

1850—Wm. J. Bacon

1851—Joseph Benedict

1852—G. D. Williams

1853—D. Gilmore

1854—Jos. Benedict

1855—G. D. Williams

1856—G. F. Fowler

1857—R. U. Sherman

1858—Henry R. Hart

1859—C. M. Scholefield

1860—J. McQuade

1861—F. Jernan

1862—C. M. Scholefield

1863—A. B. Weaver

1864—A. B. Weaver

1865—A. B. Weaver

1866—George Graham

1867—L. Blakeslee

1868—W. H. Chapman

1869—Eli Avery

1870—S. S. Lowery

1871—G. W. Chadwick

1872—M. L. Hungerford

1873—N. A. White

1874—G. W. Chadwick

1875—R. U. Sherman

1876—R. U. Sherman

1877—Jas. Corbett

1878—Wm. Jones

##### *Second District*

Warren Converse

N. N. Pierce

Ralph McIntosh

Lorenzo Rouse

C. S. Butler

Amos O. Osborn

A. P. Case

Levi Blakeslee

J. J. Hanchett

P. B. Babcock



Wm. J. McKown  
 Edward Loomis  
 Benjamin Allen  
 L. T. Marshall  
 Eli Avery  
 D. M. Prescott  
 Levi Blakeslee  
 Lorenzo Rouse  
 Alva Penny  
 Ellis H. Roberts  
 Alanson B. Cady

A. B. Tuttle  
 David M. Miner  
 Sidney A. Bunce  
 E. Beekwith  
 H. J. Coggeshall  
 Arthur F. Brown  
 Silas T. Ives  
 S. Gridley  
 Everett Case  
 A. DeV. Townsley

*Third District*

1848—B. S. Beach  
 1849—J. M. Elwood  
 1850—R. Frazier  
 1851—Lewis Rider  
 1852—Henry Sandford  
 1853—Julius C. Thorne  
 1854—D. L. Boardman  
 1855—H. H. Beecher  
 1856—T. D. Penfield  
 1857—John Halstead  
 1858—Thomas G. Hailey  
 1859—P. C. Costello  
 1860—Thomas Evans  
 1861—M. L. Kenyon  
 1862—T. D. Penfield  
 1863—Asa S. Sherman

1864—C. Brodick  
 1865—T. D. Penfield  
 1866—B. N. Huntington  
 1867—George H. Sandford  
 1868—James Stevens  
 1869—James Stevens  
 1870—St. Pierre Jerred  
 1871—Thomas Mulhall  
 1872—George K. Carroll  
 1873—P. H. Costello  
 1874—John J. Parry  
 1875—Edward Lewis  
 1876—J. H. Flanagan  
 1877—Benj. D. Stone  
 1878—Cyrus D. Prescott

*Fourth District*

Henry Wager  
 C. Stevens  
 Luther Leland  
 George Brayton  
 John J. Castle  
 Amos C. Hall  
 James Mitchell  
 Daniel Walker  
 Caleb Goodrich  
 I. Townsend  
 Reuben Knight  
 Didymus Thomas  
 George Williams  
 William Lewis  
 Jeremiah Sweet  
 Isaac McDougall

J. W. Douglass  
 George W. Cole  
 Silas L. Snyder  
 L. W. Fisk  
 A. Nicholson  
 Erastus Ely  
 James Roberts  
 Isaac McDougall  
 Albert L. Hayes  
 Daniel Walker  
 G. O. Jones  
 H. Lillybridge  
 Walter Ballou  
 J. Robert Moore  
 Robert H. Roberts

*First District*

1879—Benjamin Allen

*Second District*

Frank Saug

*Third District*

1879—Thomas D. Penfield

*Fourth District*

H. Dwight Grant

*First District**Second District**Third District*

1880—Henry J. Cookinham	James A. Douglass	David Gray
1881—James Armstrong	David G. Evans	Thomas D. Roberts
1882—Patrick Griffin	Morris R. Jones	Frank A. Edgerton
1883—William Townsend	C. E. Williams	Thomas B. Allanson
1884—Joseph Joyee	Joseph Ackroyd	T. James Owens
1885—Henry A. Steber	Lewis B. Sherman	T. James Owens
1886—Benjamin Hall	Robert W. Evans	Israel J. White
1887—Benjamin Hall	Robert W. Evans	John C. Davies
1888—J. Harry Kent	George G. McAdam	Geo. Beatty, Jr.
1889—Joseph H. Kent	George G. McAdam	Abisha B. Baker.
1890—James K. O'Connor	James L. Dempsey	Russell S. Johnson
1891—Cornelius Haley	James L. Dempsey	Russell S. Johnson
1892—Cornelius Haley	Harry S. Patten	Chester W. Porter
1893—Cornelius Haley	Chester W. Porter	
1894—Henry P. Hoeffler	Joseph Porter	
1895—Henry P. Hoeffler	Wm. Carey Sanger	
1896—Walter Embly	Wm. Carey Sanger	William B. Graves
1897—Geo. E. Philo	Wm. Carey Sanger	William B. Graves
1898—John Williams	Louis M. Martin	John E. Mason
1899—William J. Sullivan	Louis M. Martin	John E. Mason
1900—William J. Sullivan	Louis M. Martin	Edward M. Marson
1901—Michael J. McQuade	Fred J. Brill	Edward M. Marson
1902—Michael J. McQuade	Fred J. Brill	Edward M. Marson
1903—Thomas A. Mortimer	Fred J. Brill	John C. Evans
1904—Thomas A. Mortimer	Jay H. Pratt	John C. Evans
1905—Henry L. Gates	Jay H. Pratt	John C. Evans
1906—Henry L. Gates	Jay H. Pratt	John C. Evans
1907—Merwin K. Hart	Ladd J. Lewis, Jr.	Arthur G. Blue
1908—Merwin K. Hart	Ladd J. Lewis, Jr.	Arthur G. Blue
1909—John W. Manley	Ladd J. Lewis, Jr.	C. Robert Edwards
1910—John W. Manley	Herbert E. Allen	James T. Cross
1911—Ralph Entwistle	Herbert E. Allen	James T. Cross

## DELEGATES TO CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Convention of 1801—James Dean, Bezaleel Fisk, Henry Huntington.

Convention of 1821—Ezekiel Bacon, Samuel Sidney Breese, Henry Huntington, Jonas Platt, Nathan Williams.

Convention of 1846—Hervey Brayton, Julius Candee, Edward Huntington, Charles P. Kirkland.

Convention of 1867—Benjamin N. Huntington, Francis Kernan, Richard U. Sherman.

Convention of 1872—Commission for amending the constitution, Francis Kernan.

Convention of 1894—Henry J. Cookinham, John C. Davies. These delegates were elected by senatorial districts, and the senatorial district at this time consisted of Oneida, Lewis and Otsego counties. The district was entitled to five delegates, and one was chosen from Lewis and two from Otsego.

## COUNTY OFFICERS

County Clerks—Appointed up to 1847; elected for terms of three years since. The county clerks are keepers of the county records, and clerks of all the courts, including the Supreme courts, for their respective counties.

Jonas Platt, 1798; Francis A. Bloodgood, 1802; Abram Camp, 1813; Francis A. Bloodgood, 1815; Eliasaph Dorchester, 1821-22; John H. Ostrom, 1825; George Brown, 1831; John D. Leland, 1834; James Dean, 1837; P. Sheldon Root, 1840; Delos DeWolf, 1843; Patrick Mahon, 1846; Alexander Rae, 1849; Richard Hulbert, 1852; Zenas M. Howes, 1855; J. Earl Hulbert, 1858; Daniel P. Buckingham, 1861; Orson Carpenter, 1864; James C. Bronson, 1867; Linus R. Clark, 1870; James B. Paddon, 1873; Taliesin Evans, 1876; Henry J. Coggeshall, 1879; Arthur H. Ballou, 1882; M. Jesse Brayton, 1885; Frederick D. Haak, 1888; Rouse B. Maxfield, 1891; Garry A. Willard, 1894; George D. Frank, 1897; Joseph Porter, 1900; Herman Clarke, 1902; Alfred J. Bromley, 1905; Charles A. G. Seothon, 1908, also 1911.

County Treasurers—These were appointed by the boards of supervisors until the adoption of the constitution of 1846, since which time they have been elected for terms of three years. The following list is from the record at Rome and goes back to 1830, anterior to which we have not been able to procure the names.

Jay Hatheway, 1830-41; A. Bennett, 1842-45; W. Traey, 1846; E. B. Armstrong, 1847-48; Sanford Adams, 1849-51; E. H. Shelley, 1852-54; J. Thomas Spriggs, 1855-57; John J. Parry, Jr., 1858-66; Charles Northrup, 1867-72; William McPherson, 1873-78; John Kohler, 1878-81; John R. Edwards, 1884-87; Charles F. Barnard, 1890; William E. Richards, 1893-96; James H. Flanagan, 1899; Henry W. Roberts, 1902-05; James T. Somers, 1908, also 1911.

Sheriffs—These officers, under the first constitution, were appointed by the council of appointment annually; but no person could hold the office for more than four successive years. Under the constitution of 1821 they were elected for three years, and were ineligible for a second term. These conditions still exist.



THE OLD COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE IN UTICA.  
NOW THE UTICA GAS & ELECTRIC  
COMPANY'S OFFICES





William Colbrath, (written also Colbraith) March, 1798; Elizur Moseley, December, 1798; Charles C. Brodhead, November, 1800; James S. Kip, 1804; Benajah Merrill, 1807; James S. Kip, 1808; Benajah Merrill, 1810; James S. Kip, 1811; Apollos Cooper, 1815; John B. Pease, 1819; John E. Hinman, 1821-22; David Pearson, 1825; John E. Hinman, 1828; Samuel M. Mott, 1831; Erasmus Willard, 1834; Lyman Curtiss, 1837; David Moulton, 1840; Theodore S. Faxton, 1842; Israel S. Parker, 1843; Palmer V. Kellogg, 1844; Lester Barker, 1847; John R. Jones, 1850; Hugh Crocker, 1852; Calvin Hall, 1855; William J. McKown, 1858; Hugh Crocker, 1861; David B. Danforth, 1864; George F. Weaver, 1867; Lewis Gaylord, 1870; George Benedict, 1873; Frederiek G. Weaver, 1876; Francis X. Meyers, 1879; Thomas D. Penfield, 1882; John Batehlor, 1885; Thomas Wheeler, 1888; John C. Schreiber, 1891; VanRensselaer Weaver, 1894; William H. Reese, 1897; Lincoln E. Brownell, 1900; Samuel H. Jones, 1903; Frederick Gillmore, 1906; Daniel J. Becker, 1909.

Superintendents of Poor—Originally five in number and appointed by board of supervisors. By the constitution of 1846 the number was reduced to three and made elective. Finally the number was reduced to one by resolution of the board of supervisors, and superintendents of the poor are now elected for terms of three years.

Julius C. Thorne, 1861; Archibald Hess, 1864; Owen E. Owens, 1867-1870; Roderick Morrison, 1873; Thomas J. Brown, 1876; Richard E. Hatfield, 1878; Theodore S. Comstock, 1880-86; Robert W. Evans, 1889; David Aldridge, 1892; Louis Mittenmaier, 1895-98; DeWitt C. Smith, 1901-04; Walter W. Elden, 1907-10.

Coroners—This list is not entirely complete. The oaths of office of many of them are lacking in the clerk's office, but we have made it as full as possible.

1798—April 1, Samuel Ensign, Lemuel Leavenworth, Eleazer House.

1799—April 30, Bill Smith, Lemuel Leavenworth, Samuel Ensign, Eleazer House.

1800—Lemuel Leavenworth, Eleazer House.

1801—Shadraeh Smith, Bill Smith. These were sworn before Hugh White, county judge.

1803—Shadraeh Smith, Bill Smith, George T. Klock.

1804—Shadraeh Smith, Wells Kellogg.

1806—Elisha Spurr, John B. Pierce.

1807—Solomon Evarts, John B. Pierce, Joseph Butler, E. Spurr.

1808—Shadraeh Smith, E. Spurr.

1809—Joseph Butler, Solomon Evarts, Smith and Spurr.

1811—E. Spurr.

1812—Jedediah H. Peek, John Herrick.

1813—John Hunter, John Pierce, John E. Hinman, Bela B. Hyde.

1814—Levi Green, Enoch Strong, John Pierce.

1815—J. H. Peek, B. B. Hyde, J. E. Hinman.

1816—Wm. Stone, E. Spurr, J. H. Peek.

1818—B. B. Hyde, David Pierson.

1819—John Butler, Jr., Ezra S. Barnum, David Pierson, B. B. Hyde.

1820—Ezra S. Barnum.

- 1821—Zenas Howes, Charles Granger, Samuel Jones, Seely Jewell.  
 1822—E. S. Barnum, A. L. Wood, Freedom Tibbets, Stephen White, Zenas Howes.  
 1823—E. Spurr, James D. Stebbins, Preston Hilgard, C. Halladay.  
 1824—P. H. Graves (or Groves).  
 1825—Benjamin Hyde, Jr.  
 1826—Eliphalet Bailey, Robert Jones.  
 1832—Linus Sanford, Martin Rowley.  
 1837—Francis Bicknell.  
 1840—Willett Stillman, Abraham A. Barnes.  
 1841—Benjamin F. Brooks, Benjamin B. Hinkley.  
 1843—P. McCraith, Abner B. Blair, Daniel Chatfield.  
 1844—Elisha Fowler.  
 1846—Aaron B. Bligh.  
 1847—Benjamin F. Brooks, A. B. Blair, William Tompkins.  
 1849—H. H. Roberts.  
 1850—A. B. Blair, John R. Everett, E. B. Harris.  
 1851—S. M. Perine, R. H. Franeis.  
 1852—William H. Green.  
 1853—A. B. Blair, John H. Tower.  
 1854—James H. Frear.  
 1855—S. M. Perine, Clark A. Riggs.  
 1856—John P. VanVleck, Alexander Gifford.  
 1857—H. H. Roberts, J. M. Browne.  
 1858—David Donaldson.  
 1859—J. P. VanVleck.  
 1860—H. H. Roberts.  
 1861—Newton Graves, Jabez V. Cobb, John H. VanNess.  
 1863—H. H. Roberts.  
 1864—Newton Graves, Saml. F. Meney, J. V. Cobb, E. A. Munger.  
 1865—W. B. Monroe.  
 1866—Charles B. Tefft.  
 1867—J. V. Cobb, E. A. Munger, W. B. Monroe.  
 1869—Evan G. Williams.  
 1870—E. J. Lawton, E. A. Munger, Christian Weiss.  
 1871—Charles B. Tefft, Wm. Meyer.  
 1872—E. G. Williams.  
 1873—Edward D. Taylor, James G. Hunt, E. J. Lawton.  
 1874—David Larrabee, James G. Hunt.  
 1875—Chas. E. Fraser, Jr., Francis T. Gorton.  
 1876—James G. Hunt, E. J. Lawton.  
 1877-78—E. J. Lawton, E. F. Gorton, C. E. Fraser, Charles Munger, Edwin W. Raynor.  
 1879—James G. Hunt, Elon J. Lawton.  
 1881—Edwin W. Raynor, Hiram P. DuBois.  
 1882—Albert G. Spencer, Henry C. Sutton.  
 1884—Henry W. Leonard, Herbert G. Jones, Edwin W. Raynor.

- 1885—Willis E. Millington.
- 1886—Leander Swartwout.
- 1887—Herbert G. Jones, G. Massillon Lewis.
- 1888—Willis E. Millington.
- 1889—Matthias Cook.
- 1890—Myron W. Hunt, G. Massillon Lewis.
- 1891—Thomas G. Nock.
- 1892—Charles B. Tefft.
- 1893—G. Massillon Lewis, Myron W. Hunt.
- 1894—Thomas G. Nock.
- 1895—Charles G. Ward.
- 1896—Howard G. Bartless, James W. Douglass.
- 1897—Thomas G. Nock.
- 1898—George R. Taylor, Robert Dodd.
- 1899—James W. Douglass.
- 1900—Howard F. Hubbard.
- 1901—Robert Dodd, Robert B. Wilson.
- 1902—George C. Morey.
- 1903—Howard F. Hubbard.
- 1904—Robert Dodd, G. Massillon Lewis.
- 1905—George C. Morey.
- 1906—Howard F. Hubbard.
- 1907—Robert Dodd, G. Massillon Lewis.
- 1908—Edward N. Sparks.
- 1909—Gilbert N. Lehr.
- 1910—Robert Dodd, John D. Shipman.

County superintendents of common schools, appointed by boards of supervisors from 1843 to 1847, when the office was abolished.

Elon Comstock, Julius C. Thorne, Hosea Clark, Stephen Moulton, William S. Wetmore.

In 1857 the office of school commissioner was established and made elective. First election held in November, 1859. Term of office three years.

Abram B. Weaver, Harvey E. Wilcox, Mills C. Blackstone, Grove W. Bagg, Peter B. Crandall, Charles T. Pooler, Julius C. Thorne, Joshua H. Traey, Harvey S. Bedell, Homer T. Fowler, Merritt N. Capron, Silas L. Snyder, Eugene L. Hinekley, John R. Pugh, Charles T. Burnley, Henry S. Ninde, Horace O. Farley.

Mills C. Blackstone, Harvey E. Wilcox, Abram B. Weaver, Grove W. Bagg, Peter B. Crandall, Charles T. Pooler, Julius C. Thorne, Joshua H. Tracy, Eugene L. Hinekley, Silas L. Snyder, Merritt N. Capron, Homer T. Fowler, Harvey S. Bedell.

1872—John R. Pugh, Charles T. Burnley, Henry S. Ninde, Horace O. Farley.

1875—John R. Pugh, Charles E. Howe, Martin W. Smith, Milton W. George.

1878—Franklin P. Ashley, Julius M. Button, Jonas W. Armstrong, George Griffith.

1881—William D. Biddlecome, Julius M. Button, Martin W. Smith, Jerome F. Hilts.



1884—William D. Biddlecome, Edward A. O'Brien, Everett E. Edgerton, Jerome F. Hilts.

1887—William D. Lewis, Fred E. Payne, Everett E. Edgerton, William B. Graves.

1890—Laura F. Mayhew, Fred E. Payne, Nellie K. Tibbits, James McCullough.

1893—Cora A. Davis, Frederiek B. Pierce, Selden L. Harding, James McCullough.

1896—Cora A. Davis, Everett E. Edgerton, Selden L. Harding, James McCullough.

1899—Cora A. Davis, William J. Lewis, Daniel J. Covell, Frank E. Niess.

1902—William J. Lewis, Daniel J. Covell, Frank E. Niess, Charles A. Higley.

1905—Ray P. Snyder, William J. Lewis, Ervin W. Claus, Frank E. Niess.

1908—Ray P. Snyder, Harry C. Buek, John C. Evans, Benjamin F. Hughes.

Each commissioner reports his own district separately and independently to the state superintendent.

#### LOAN COMMISSIONERS

The list of these officers is imperfect, for the same reasons which apply in the case of coroners—the records are not complete. We give what names we have been able to find:

Benjamin Hyde, 1824-26; James D. Stebbins, John Parker, 1838; Denio Babcock, 1840; David Babcock, 1842; (These names are obscure, and may be identical.) Parker Halleck, A. S. Newberry, A. Hazen, 1843; Clark Potter, 1844; Denio Babcock, William Higby, C. C. Cook, J. P. Fitch, 1848; Ephraim Storrs, John W. Stafford, 1852; Mark Potter, 1854; Andrew Jones, 1855-58; William E. Griffith, 1860; Israel B. Spencer, Jason S. Ethridge, 1870; Benjamin D. Stone, 1871; Curtiss J. Wright, A. G. Williams, 1873; Curtiss J. Wright, A. G. Williams, 1878-1879; Newton Sholes, Burlington Button, 1880-82; S. W. Patten, Charles B. Hitchcock, 1883-1890; H. S. Patten, Charles B. Hitchcock, 1891; Jonas W. Armstrong, Charles B. Hitchcock, 1892-94; Luther G. Williams, James Brown, 1895-1903; John R. Watkins, James Brown, 1904-1908; Luther G. Williams, Robert A. Pritchard, 1909-1911.

#### VOTES FOR PRESIDENT

Presidential electors were selected by the legislature of the state of New York until 1828. In that year they were elected by the people, but no record can be found of the vote in Oneida county. Search has been made in the office of secretary of state at Albany, the Oneida county clerk's office, and the file of every newspaper published in that period in Oneida county, but no record can be found. This is also true of the year 1836. The following table gives the vote for presidential electors, with the names of the candidates of the great parties for president, and the vote cast in each town and ward, where the figures were attainable. In a few instances towns and wards are missing, and where they are not given in the tables the records cannot be found.

	1832	1836	1840	1844	1848						
Towns	Andrew Jackson (Dem.)	William Wirt (Rep.)	Wm. H. Harrison (Whig)	Martin Van Buren (Dem.)	Wm. H. Harrison (Whig)	Martin Van Buren (Dem.)	Henry Clay (Whig)	James K. Polk (Dem.)	Zachary Taylor (Whig)	Lewis Cass (Dem.)	Martin Van Buren (Dem.)
Annsville .....	154	128	.. ..	179	189	175	208	173	143	73	
Augusta .....	300	250	.. ..	207	250	173	232	172	149	103	
Ava .....	...	...	.. ..	...	...	...	...	70	15	71	
Boonville .....	269	211	.. ..	343	449	304	336	226	94	209	
Bridgewater .....	125	169	.. ..	160	153	134	158	131	118	39	
Camden .....	165	201	.. ..	283	169	213	197	163	45	224	
Deerfield .....	231	147	.. ..	175	260	146	227	101	99	190	
Florence .....	98	60	.. ..	82	125	84	177	59	27	196	
Floyd .....	214	100	.. ..	86	215	80	192	57	121	49	
Kirkland .....	217	288	.. ..	322	283	305	261	272	123	189	
Lee .....	380	119	.. ..	154	442	188	433	155	205	190	
Marcy .....	161	95	.. ..	125	211	106	204	63	57	78	
Marshall .....	185	222	.. ..	208	233	202	215	137	58	167	
New Hartford ...	194	329	.. ..	392	230	403	225	340	156	96	
Paris .....	219	317	.. ..	315	240	319	260	290	109	241	
Remsen .....	76	154	.. ..	216	88	198	114	146	32	111	
Rome .....	429	356	.. ..	522	570	495	592	487	393	196	
Sangerfield .....	235	220	.. ..	253	277	222	283	171	177	103	
Steuben .....	143	147	.. ..	196	135	189	141	70	55	73	
Trenton .....	258	322	.. ..	352	309	333	288	253	61	259	
Utica (1) .....	†477	†692	.. ..	†883	†784	152	137	133	98	74	
Utica (2) .....	...	...	.. ..	...	...	226	121	181	58	102	
Utica (3) .....	...	...	.. ..	...	...	312	218	344	89	224	
Utica (4) .....	...	...	.. ..	...	...	373	365	129	90	105	
Utica (5) .....	...	...	.. ..	...	...	...	...	255	98	203	
Vernon .....	268	352	.. ..	328	264	312	288	231	108	151	
Verona .....	353	252	.. ..	395	477	449	493	416	194	198	
Vienna .....	267	108	.. ..	148	333	107	368	...	...	...	
Western .....	384	45	.. ..	113	463	100	377	63	271	81	
Westmoreland ....	273	311	.. ..	300	303	278	290	199	137	218	
Whitestown .....	338	395	.. ..	419	316	405	317	353	151	220	
Total .....	6,413	5,989		7,156	7,768	6,983	7,717	5,830	3,531	4,533	

†Total vote in Utica.

	1852		1856			1860		1864	
Town	Winfield Scott (Whig)	Franklin Pierce (Dem.)	Millard Fillmore (Independent)	James Buchanan (Dem.)	John C. Fremont (Rep.)	Abraham Lincoln (Rep.)	Stephen A. Douglas (Dem.)	Abraham Lincoln (Unionist)	George B. McClellan (Dem.)
Annsville . . . . .	193	292	24	181	280	322	308	301	360
Augusta . . . . .	188	205	5	141	302	316	191	312	203
Ava . . . . .	108	133	23	100	107	136	112	145	147
Boonville . . . . .	264	318	128	175	539	641	341	583	410
Bridgewater . . .	132	141	12	80	177	200	113	197	106
Camden . . . . .	258	248	65	148	453	519	232	498	291
Deerfield . . . . .	120	234	24	182	233	258	233	238	281
Florence . . . . .	149	217	9	127	158	185	332	123	424
Floyd . . . . .	67	213	13	139	133	147	177	139	181
Kirkland . . . . .	293	217	50	261	399	530	394	496	424
Lee . . . . .	259	375	27	237	346	351	357	325	374
Marcy . . . . .	81	173	15	106	185	203	157	186	186
Marshall . . . . .	166	228	1	116	289	281	146	289	211
New Hartford . .	359	487	43	161	503	575	218	557	260
Paris . . . . .	320	255	31	155	520	617	266	526	289
Remsen . . . . .	170	114	30	99	345	409	213	374	253
Rome . . . . .	632	839	231	846	650	837	934	768	1,239
Sangerfield . . .	223	257	8	194	286	265	230	251	278
Steuben . . . . .	161	102	5	72	211	255	81	232	102
Trenton . . . . .	301	262	10	120	554	600	194	586	228
Utica (1) . . . . .	138	148	39	127	117	128	161	106	203
Utica (2) . . . . .	196	177	51	158	232	278	275	290	330
Utica (3) . . . . .	276	178	81	151	342	384	255	447	280
Utica (4) . . . . .	333	260	88	252	414	428	290	474	291
Utica (5) . . . . .	229	299	54	394	389	191	388	163	479
Utica (6) . . . . .	198	206	66	282	252	365	423	343	532
Utica (7) . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	373	257	380	338
Vernon . . . . .	274	240	56	135	416	429	224	414	252
Verona . . . . .	479	496	180	178	402	692	345	663	624
Vienna . . . . .	225	378	23	118	291	322	235	434	398
Western . . . . .	117	362	40	250	235	250	288	254	288
Westmoreland . .	292	262	72	130	479	464	214	427	280
Whitestown . . .	460	335	98	186	525	436	196	523	384
Total . . . . .	7,661	8,473	1,632	6,009	10,064	12,387	8,780	12,044	10,924

	1868		1872		1876		1880		1884	
Towns	Ulysses S. Grant (Rep.)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Ulysses S. Grant (Rep.)	Horace Greeley (Dem.)	R. B. Hayes (Rep.)	Samuel J. Tilden (Dem.)	James A. Garfield (Rep.)	W. S. Hancock (Dem.)	James G. Blaine (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)
Annsville ...	282	350	280	303	284	372	310	315	299	301
Augusta ....	316	208	289	194	*39	...	321	253	303	273
Ava .....	131	127	131	90	74	94	138	128	127	123
Boonville ...	624	428	633	331	635	429	686	385	574	472
Bridgewater	192	106	180	104	181	156	186	128	160	164
Camden ....	557	289	554	281	540	349	574	309	579	333
Deerfield ...	246	241	270	182	270	264	400	223	278	241
Florence ....	163	387	...	*159	...	*278	184	274	202	261
Floyd .....	148	162	139	125	145	155	124	145	121	140
Forestport ..	...	...	141	126	...	...	185	169	210	168
Kirkland ...	531	478	500	503	570	488	496	586	537	600
Lee .....	327	350	*2	...	316	*356	...	76	221	337
Marey .....	175	178	202	116	197	170	184	175	198	158
Marshall ....	302	210	253	229	268	306	283	236	295	288
New H'rtfo'd	562	291	590	270	555	314	616	367	517	423
Paris .....	516	317	486	272	494	357	210	360	405	402
Remsen ....	399	235	275	39	264	54	551	63	204	67
Rome (1) ..	†860	†1,307	†1,115	†1,196	222	330	234	336	263	392
Rome (2) ..	...	...	...	...	153	300	160	252	150	311
Rome (3) ..	...	...	...	...	217	453	254	411	223	431
Rome (4) ..	...	...	...	...	232	277	223	268	234	303
Rome (5) ..	...	...	...	...	375	278	406	260	425	282
Sangerfield .	287	337	...	*13	342	433	351	399	324	423
Steuben ....	222	92	215	58	199	98	198	92	151	97
Trenton ....	624	199	562	164	648	182	644	189	528	227
Utica (1) ..	†2,409	†2,912	†3,027	†2,791	140	158	144	119	164	120
Utica (2) .	...	...	...	...	307	463	341	424	345	501
Utica (3) .	...	...	...	...	636	442	394	277	404	341
Utica (4) .	...	...	...	...	440	236	463	249	446	308
Utica (5) .	...	...	...	...	54	244	88	254	85	249
Utica (6) .	...	...	...	...	141	270	163	252	156	306
Utica (7) .	...	...	...	...	696	585	335	372	378	388
Utica (8) .	...	...	...	...	272	429	326	468	367	576
Utica (9) .	...	...	...	...	465	482	471	550	530	574
Utica (10) .	...	...	...	...	216	243	208	258	209	271
Utica (11) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	279	208	317	235
Utica (12) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	421	327	463	371
Vernon ....	455	257	412	266	155	104	448	336	430	354
Verona .....	652	507	692	333	480	349	639	565	539	647
Vienna .....	149	112	372	231	...	*12	335	331	294	314
Western ....	252	310	307	238	277	317	323	280	255	289



## HISTORY OF ONEIDA COUNTY

	1868		1872		1876		1880		1884	
Towns	Ulysses S. Grant (Rep.)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Ulysses S. Grant (Rep.)	Horace Greeley (Dem.)	R. B. Hayes (Rep.)	Samuel J. Tilden (Dem.)	James A. Garfield (Rep.)	W. S. Hancock (Dem.)	James G. Blaine (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)
Westmor'land	438	266	407	254	431	261	442	253	353	221
Whitestown	546	365	307	177	631	387	644	407	529	528
Total	12,365	11,021	12,475	9,629	12,561	11,415	14,382	12,329	13,790	13,809

\*Majority  
†Total

	1888		1892		1896		1900		1904	
Towns	BenJ. Harrison (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)	BenJ. Harrison (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)	William McKinley (Rep.)	William J. Bryan (Dem.)	William McKinley (Rep.)	William J. Bryan (Dem.)	Theodore Roosevelt (Rep.)	Alton J. Parker (Dem.)
Annsville ...	350	292	225	236	268	223	257	160	259	187
Augusta ....	303	274	249	200	295	191	337	205	335	200
Ava .....	126	119	94	101	93	109	107	93	66	32
Boonville ...	669	429	549	357	652	301	657	288	582	345
Bridgewater	179	141	167	118	213	63	222	82	186	81
Camden ....	602	319	543	313	751	184	766	227	680	333
Deerfield ...	294	223	213	162	267	160	284	166	254	170
Florence ....	188	252	157	179	172	164	189	160	175	160
Floyd .....	150	124	114	115	117	91	131	90	...	...
Forestport ..	238	149	222	113	283	126	239	94	242	110
Kirkland ...	597	617	491	532	585	486	653	498	641	423
Lee .....	262	291	241	249	263	175	277	202	222	214
Marey .....	219	153	*25	...	235	135	223	140	224	152
Marshall ...	314	252	259	256	220	171	289	217	309	185
New H'rtf'rd	655	467	495	323	618	281	750	413	760	405
Paris .....	465	398	395	382	457	305	428	302	390	269
Remsen .....	226	82	205	65	230	55	231	55	206	55
Rome ( 1 ) .	356	476	299	394	390	335	477	398	200	267
Rome ( 2 ) .	226	313	196	284	243	212	271	261	254	279
Rome ( 3 ) .	269	483	230	379	277	341	330	406	349	419
Rome ( 4 ) .	306	333	283	314	397	204	400	284	417	365
Rome ( 5 ) .	492	288	438	294	574	209	598	284	333	184
Rome ( 6 ) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	346	155
Rome ( 7 ) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	252	243
Sangerfield .	388	403	358	363	407	230	377	281	346	264
Steuben ....	180	73	164	65	144	72	157	73	142	61
Trenton ....	505	201	452	169	569	134	551	143	511	138
Utica ( 1 ) .	182	106	166	110	189	101	187	155	160	140

	1888	1892	1896	1900	1904					
Towns	Ben. Harrison (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)	Ben. Harrison (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)	William McKinley (Rep.)	William J. Bryan (Dem.)	William McKinley (Rep.)	William J. Bryan (Dem.)	Theodore Roosevelt (Rep.)	Alton J. Parker (Dem.)
Utica ( 2 ) . .	426	492	386	490	618	402	508	461	472	513
Utica ( 3 ) .	435	336	397	351	524	255	517	292	521	351
Utica ( 4 ) .	516	351	433	281	527	223	516	263	492	302
Utica ( 5 ) .	110	273	76	245	145	172	166	153	165	208
Utica ( 6 ) .	202	314	184	296	296	225	260	275	275	341
Utica ( 7 ) .	497	450	564	507	810	418	846	492	985	551
Utica ( 8 ) .	525	784	575	908	1,074	982	797	985	896	1,137
Utica ( 9 ) .	646	773	545	825	914	611	602	659	669	685
Utica (10) .	261	281	226	301	334	248	298	283	338	351
Utica (11) .	431	277	442	287	539	263	579	347	564	410
Utica (12) .	657	424	690	545	956	443	563	405	636	460
Utica (13) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	294	257	368	305
Utica (14) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	293	224	377	251
Utica (15) .	...	...	...	...	...	...	516	250	544	284
Vernon . . . . .	474	345	425	297	500	237	513	288	531	322
Verona . . . .	4,674	562	489	495	431	269	596	413	574	429
Vienna . . . . .	320	335	268	282	356	211	351	217	311	234
Western . . . .	276	252	242	234	282	175	263	191	254	194
Westmor'l'nd	391	229	323	250	361	175	394	160	342	181
Whitestown .	657	537	665	570	895	426	922	504	924	578
Total . . .	16,241	14,275	14,150	13,297	18,471	10,793	19,182	12,796	19,079	13,923

\*Majority

	1908	
TOWNS	Wm. H. Taft (Rep.)	Wm. J. Bryan (Dem.)
Annsville . . . . .	254	184
Augusta . . . . .	320	210
Ava . . . . .	76	75
Boonville . . . . .	595	349
Bridgewater . . . . .	159	94
Camden . . . . .	596	327
Deerfield . . . . .	242	199
Florence . . . . .	148	160
Floyd . . . . .	147	83
Forestport . . . . .	77	105
Kirkland . . . . .	665	477

TOWNS	1908	
	Wm. H. Taft (Rep.)	Wm. J. Bryan (Dem.)
Lee	244	208
Marey	212	158
Marshall	289	224
New Hartford	835	517
Paris	442	286
Remsen	210	63
Rome (1)	220	244
Rome (2)	275	239
Rome (3)	340	423
Rome (4)	442	373
Rome (5)	382	211
Rome (6)	311	209
Rome (7)	278	287
Sangerfield	325	292
Steuben	123	67
Trenton	414	160
Utica (1)	110	181
Utica (2)	435	489
Utica (3)	548	349
Utica (4)	477	279
Utica (5)	176	168
Utica (6)	258	368
Utica (7)	1,032	613
Utica (8)	1,044	1,126
Utica (9)	654	763
Utica (10)	345	324
Utica (11)	647	452
Utica (12)	606	534
Utica (13)	423	399
Utica (14)	395	336
Utica (15)	601	338
Vernon	522	340
Verona	540	340
Vienna	320	228
Western	237	176
Westmoreland	347	186
Whitestown	837	679
Total	19,155	14,963

## VOTES FOR GOVERNORS

The votes for governors in the several towns and wards of Oneida county from 1801 to 1912 are given in the following table, so far as the same are attainable. It will appear that certain towns, originally a part of Oneida county, are dropped when they ceased to be a part of the county, having been taken off in the organization of St. Lawrence, Lewis, Jefferson and Oswego counties.

	1801		1804		1807		1810		1813	
Towns	George Clinton (Radical)	S. Van Rensselaer (Conservative)	Morgan Lewis (Rep.)	Aaron Burr (Federalist)	Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)	Morgan Lewis (Rep.)	Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)	Jonas Platt (Fed.)	Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)	S. Van Rensselaer (Conservative)
Adams	...	...	89	41	...	...	...	...	...	...
Augusta	22	175	131	87	139	176	150	200	74	126
Boonville	...	...	...	...	11	74	15	52	11	80
Bridgewater	5	130	41	63	52	67	63	88	65	72
Brownville	...	...	26	65	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bengal	...	...	...	...	...	...	46	25	37	43
Camden	11	36	84	65	64	88	68	110	44	129
Champion	17	29	30	61	...	...	...	...	...	...
Constantia	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	19	6	23
Deerfield	20	41	45	55	52	41	62	55	70	65
Ellisburgh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Floyd	38	34	88	22	125	17	99	28	151	55
Florence	...	...	...	...	27	25	33	29	20	22
Fredericksburgh	...	...	...	...	2	5	5	6	...	...
Harrisburgh	...	...	33	100	...	...	...	...	...	...
Leyden	14	59	74	43	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lowville	28	7	140	29	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	89	26
Mexico	17	8	27	10	53	33	62	61	43	73
Martinsburgh	...	...	64	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paris	47	612	128	403	143	412	187	465	158	500
Rutland	...	...	85	49	...	...	...	...	...	...
Remsen	1	32	32	9	16	22	19	14	15	17
Redfield	24	...	50	...	53	...	54	3	57	2
Richland	...	...	...	...	37	25	73	79	71	125
Rome	84	60	96	33	138	68	100	82	116	76
Steuben	3	47	74	27	89	42	83	57	45	58
Scriba	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	6
Sangerfield	...	...	40	89	34	118	44	133	42	137
Turin	1	48	60	47	...	...	...	...	...	...
Trenton	1	51	14	47	31	66	45	82	55	103
Verona	...	...	68	15	81	36	98	53	91	76
Vernon	...	...	73	93	102	78	88	102	142	213
Volney	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	26
Watertown	29	27	105	58	...	...	...	...	...	...
Westmoreland	23	149	35	63	54	101	48	93	64	143
Whitestown	27	485	128	278	144	322	161	372	161	364
Williamstown	...	...	...	...	37	11	34	48	30	56
Western	91	12	248	7	295	1	255	20	210	15
	503	2042	2108	1860	1779	1828	1899	2276	1895	2631



Towns	1816				1817				1820				1821				1822				1823			
	Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)	Rufus King (Fed.)	DeWitt Clinton (People)	Scattering	Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)	DeWitt Clinton (People)	For Convention	Against Convention	For Constitution	Against Constitution	Joseph C. Yates (Rep.)	Scattering	Daniel D. Tompkins (Rep.)	DeWitt Clinton (People)	For Convention	Against Convention	For Constitution	Against Constitution	Joseph C. Yates (Rep.)	Scattering				
Augusta . . . . .	73	134	105	2	66	104	183	14	69	88	221	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Boonville . . . . .	40	62	54	...	24	36	54	44	59	15	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Bridgewater ..	63	81	104	1	35	86	95	102	87	65	181	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Bengal . . . . .	30	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Camden . . . . .	53	97	86	...	89	166	74	64	47	111	253	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Constantia ...	5	11	17	...	30	25	91	3	72	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Deerfield . . . . .	78	48	72	...	33	97	103	81	95	84	210	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Floyd . . . . .	109	27	97	...	72	61	162	47	140	41	176	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Florence . . . . .	14	19	28	...	16	41	40	17	31	18	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Lee . . . . .	97	35	95	...	123	32	136	19	126	27	185	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Mexico . . . . .	19	21	42	1	17	64	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
New Haven ..	33	31	45	...	20	12	126	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Orwell . . . . .	...	...	24	...	54	15	68	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Paris . . . . .	186	433	340	8	129	430	272	409	252	269	621	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Remsen . . . . .	16	9	31	...	...	31	29	9	16	23	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Redfield . . . . .	38	...	28	3	41	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Richland . . . . .	139	115	51	...	66	64	391	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Rome . . . . .	116	108	124	...	96	140	354	22	222	44	412	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Steuben . . . . .	41	54	35	3	44	51	122	3	74	5	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Scriba . . . . .	15	9	15	...	16	108	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Sangerfield ...	58	125	96	2	26	142	121	97	72	89	321	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Trenton . . . . .	83	100	95	3	41	133	122	167	108	122	221	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Utica . . . . .	...	...	...	...	25	122	244	64	139	90	448	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Verona . . . . .	104	73	101	...	78	95	180	50	134	83	262	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Vienna . . . . .	...	...	75	...	20	149	80	71	73	58	164	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Vernon . . . . .	80	127	106	...	20	196	140	151	67	164	219	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Volney . . . . .	15	19	2	3	61	21	147	35	108	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Westmoreland.	65	155	154	...	95	135	207	104	154	109	352	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Whitestown ..	140	355	293	17	103	260	359	141	294	120	600	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Williamstown.	43	44	38	...	64	32	62	26	51	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
Western . . . . .	140	14	129	...	134	24	241	13	197	5	263	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			
	1893	2327	2387	43	1638	2881	4205	1761	2687	1691	5431	34	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...			

	1824		1826		1828		1830		1832	
TOWNS	Samuel Young (Rep.)	DeWitt Clinton (People)	Wm. B. Rochester (Bucattl)	DeWitt Clinton (People's)	Martin Van Buren (Jacksonian)	Smith Thompson (National-Rep.)	Enos T. Throop (Dem.-Bucktail)	Francis Granger (Anti-Mason)	William L. Marcy (Rep.)	Francis Granger (Anti-Mason)
Annsville . . . .	76	116	58	145	96	157	142	75	150	129
Angusta . . . .	126	222	188	164	243	225	247	208	305	248
Ava . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boonville . . . .	120	92	115	126	163	180	188	29	263	217
Bridgewater . .	113	135	93	130	127	112	132	167	124	174
Camden . . . . .	54	161	50	183	90	186	146	167	175	194
Deerfield . . . .	149	204	132	169	291	213	272	147	230	145
Florence . . . . .	45	34	43	44	77	42	71	49	99	60
Floyd . . . . .	154	90	122	92	183	125	206	77	217	97
Kirkland . . . .	...	...	...	...	251	505	215	171	222	284
Lee . . . . .	193	77	160	92	323	107	242	14	383	113
Marcy . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160	97
Marshall . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	117	192	219
New Hartford. . .	...	...	...	...	163	328	188	264	200	325
Paris . . . . .	287	704	233	511	165	319	205	261	214	317
Remsen . . . . .	47	52	26	75	45	132	77	74	77	153
Rome . . . . .	277	257	297	235	448	299	354	192	434	353
Sangerfield . . .	91	228	63	199	151	235	196	173	235	221
Steuben . . . . .	116	49	103	42	127	114	115	130	139	152
Trenton . . . . .	117	250	122	201	169	353	229	212	259	323
Utica . . . . .	150	384	246	460	470	715	501	323	470	689
Vernon . . . . .	52	391	76	343	196	367	290	277	289	331
Verona . . . . .	178	187	160	162	351	206	295	232	358	255
Vienna . . . . .	80	139	100	166	165	142	181	113	265	110
Western . . . . .	310	41	236	33	380	50	346	15	387	41
Westmoreland. .	250	230	205	199	253	276	266	252	281	301
Whitestown . .	255	516	244	409	203	349	292	247	342	378
	3240	4559	3072	4180	5130	5737	5536	4086	6470	5926

In 1828, Solomon Southwick, the anti-Masonic candidate for governor, received 136 votes in the county. In 1824 the votes of Steuben were rejected by the county canvassers on account of an error in the date of returns (1823 instead of the right year) by a vote of 9 to 8.

	1834		1836		1838		1840		1842	
TOWNS	William L. Marcy (Rep.)	William H. Seward (Whig)	William L. Marcy (Rep.)	Jesse Ruel (Whig)	William L. Marcy (Rep.)	William H. Seward (Whig)	William C. Bouck (Dem.)	William H. Seward (Rep.)	William C. Bouck (Dem.)	Luther Bradish (Whig)
Annsville . . . .	153	99	133	73	159	115	191	177	189	126
Augusta . . . . .	314	231	236	101	227	117	257	204	229	176
Ava . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boonville . . . .	247	172	196	113	218	227	460	333	290	268
Bridgewater ..	135	159	134	66	146	121	154	158	149	120
Camden . . . . .	171	223	138	168	161	176	173	279	169	165
Deerfield . . . .	247	150	193	71	226	104	271	167	183	102
Florence . . . . .	113	74	107	23	113	41	127	82	135	47
Floyd . . . . .	191	82	162	40	159	56	219	86	172	56
Kirkland . . . . .	267	323	220	215	258	241	284	323	264	290
Lee . . . . .	335	135	286	88	317	97	453	149	392	136
Marcy . . . . .	168	104	151	27	140	66	211	126	157	67
Marshall . . . . .	222	206	161	104	190	130	235	210	176	139
New Hartford.	191	344	163	248	162	331	231	391	203	307
Paris . . . . .	219	297	146	204	237	197	244	315	225	229
Remsen . . . . .	72	163	85	71	67	163	94	214	91	140
Rome . . . . .	497	295	465	104	464	359	578	519	569	410
Sangerfield ...	236	222	182	141	236	190	281	248	268	192
Steuben . . . . .	152	154	137	60	116	141	138	195	124	117
Trenton . . . . .	265	310	212	216	242	237	311	348	268	277
Utica . . . . .	472	776	461	503	603	658	785	877	776	796
Vernon . . . . .	309	302	254	125	318	309	270	326	254	264
Verona . . . . .	364	261	259	149	227	256	485	391	415	351
Vienna . . . . .	252	121	233	32	273	86	334	152	339	99
Western . . . . .	373	47	357	8	358	52	475	104	373	57
Westmoreland.	243	286	217	179	240	237	315	305	280	268
Whitestown ..	315	415	223	238	244	354	322	424	265	359
	6523	5951	5511	3367	6101	5061	7898	7103	6955	5558

	1844			1846		1848		1850		
Towns	Silas Wright (Dem.)	Millard Fillmore (Whig)	Alvan Stewart (Liberty or Abolition)	Silas Wright (Dem.)	John Young (Whig)	R. H. Walworth (Hunker-Dem.)	Hamilton Fish (Whig)	John A. Dix (Barnburner Dem.)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Washington Hunt (Whig)
Amnsville . . . . .	210	173	23	194	152	143	175	72	245	165
Augusta . . . . .	233	173	52	169	166	152	177	102	221	195
Ava . . . . .	...	...	..	34	94	15	71	72	98	88
Boonville . . . . .	336	305	16	145	255	96	231	206	349	324
Bridgewater .. 164	131	22	129	103	120	130	39	152	115	
Camden . . . . .	210	209	59	135	190	56	183	251	292	249
Deerfield . . . . .	235	142	54	166	108	99	99	193	256	101
Florence . . . . .	179	86	45	49	117	30	60	195	298	86
Floyd . . . . .	193	80	16	151	58	125	57	46	191	71
Kirkland . . . . .	266	311	28	220	292	125	283	180	276	268
Lee . . . . .	432	188	31	269	158	210	163	178	368	222
Marey . . . . .	212	104	15	116	66	57	62	100	174	73
Marshall . . . . .	221	199	27	183	133	54	138	170	167	194
New Hartford. 240	399	33	169	342	166	345	87	237	340	
Paris . . . . .	264	316	66	228	272	112	299	241	272	385
Remsen . . . . .	120	202	31	63	156	32	158	116	132	196
Rome . . . . .	577	516	35	382	433	410	479	198	677	560
Sangerfield ... 285	222	7	210	183	169	189	111	271	178	
Stenben . . . . .	140	190	37	53	142	58	124	94	141	141
Trenton . . . . .	293	337	79	202	292	64	271	256	271	344
Utica . . . . .	852	1,034	109	530	1,087	449	1,034	703	1,201	1,059
Vernon . . . . .	301	304	36	240	244	113	243	143	270	295
Verona . . . . .	494	451	25	332	417	200	420	200	436	517
Vienna . . . . .	371	108	38	292	88	46	119	315	419	173
Western . . . . .	354	116	25	37	266	281	67	72	325	137
Westmoreland. 296	282	48	213	235	137	210	207	301	291	
Whitestown .. 325	404	94	183	382	149	372	212	290	465	
	7,903	6,982	1,051	5,094	6,431	3,768	6,059	4,759	8,430	7,232



	1852		1854			1856			1858		
TOWNS	Washington Hunt (Whig)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Greco C. Bronson (Dem.)	Myron H. Clark (Whig)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Erastus Brooks (Dem.)	Amasa J. Parker (Dem.)	John A. Kling (Whig)	Edwin D. Morgan (Rep.)	Amasa J. Parker (Dem.)	Lorenzo Burrows (Amer.)
Annsville .....	214	286	1	178	199	36	183	268	249	294	23
Angusta .....	190	223	26	217	261	8	151	292	246	164	2
Ava .....	111	130	11	98	100	23	105	99	88	64	4
Boonville .....	270	323	..	...	...	138	175	529	558	256	55
Bridgewater .....	130	144	5	100	147	31	78	159	153	109	1
Camden .....	265	269	2	215	188	67	149	452	444	267	13
Deerfield .....	112	272	..	...	...	22	110	322	215	201	14
Florence .....	145	258	..	61	173	10	125	149	135	323	41
Floyd .....	67	213	130	84	39	12	144	129	138	154	9
Kirkland .....	299	320	51	293	239	62	274	384	434	336	26
Lee .....	269	373	1	274	257	32	243	334	333	275	7
Marey .....	72	195	7	98	120	9	117	182	264	119	10
Marshall .....	166	232	1	106	241	..	128	278	219	158	14
New Hartford ....	...	...	12	382	261	45	166	499	548	170	2
Paris .....	325	269	29	327	250	43	155	503	469	226	14
Remsen .....	233	183	..	170	120	30	87	358	314	155	4
Rome .....	646	845	68	604	715	220	890	651	680	930	39
Sangerfield .....	219	265	14	125	285	3	204	277	237	216	22
Steuben .....	171	108	2	136	128	5	72	211	217	72	1
Trenton .....	308	292	7	176	149	11	128	545	520	172	3
Utica (1).....	116	170	12	81	171	32	129	114	124	143	3
“ (2).....	164	228	7	172	194	56	174	212	135	226	7
“ (3).....	233	229	12	288	190	92	158	321	363	196	43
“ (4).....	279	356	10	367	306	95	255	408	397	229	39
“ (5).....	167	371	5	259	407	72	406	359	136	364	13
“ (6).....	187	220	6	182	327	65	297	234	382	394	19
“ (7).....	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	296	192	8
Vernon .....	258	304	13	211	263	54	142	418	366	182	32
Verona .....	507	491	42	516	371	123	161	399	608	388	50
Vienna .....	231	383	..	...	...	23	123	290	374	260	3
Western .....	125	369	26	217	255	48	256	222	251	261	..
Westmoreland ....	300	285	31	298	236	81	140	460	15	147	25
Whitestown .....	452	353	35	369	323	102	190	517	458	250	31
Total .....	7,231	8,859	576	6,604	6,915	1,650	6,105	10,575	10,342	7,674	655

	1860		1862		1864		1866		1868	
Towns	Edwin D. Morgan (Rep.)	John Kelly (Dem.)	James S. Wadsworth (Unionist)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Reuben E. Fenton (Unionist)	Horatio Seymour (Dem.)	Reuben E. Fenton (Unionist)	John T. Hoffman (Dem.)	John A. Griswold (Rep.)	John T. Hoffman (Dem.)
Annsville . . . .	317	314	...	44	303	353	312	322	279	353
Augusta . . . . .	316	191	275	166	317	197	311	204	317	207
Ava . . . . .	133	115	113	127	145	148	144	120	131	126
Boonville . . . . .	639	342	476	383	582	426	584	407	620	433
Bridgewater ..	198	111	176	106	195	108	198	105	189	109
Camden . . . . .	513	236	435	255	496	297	559	286	553	303
Deerfield . . . . .	257	234	207	270	240	280	235	269	242	244
Florence . . . . .	179	343	112	363	125	422	137	424	159	391
Floyd . . . . .	148	177	111	172	140	180	143	168	148	156
Kirkland . . . . .	528	385	415	372	497	423	528	436	531	478
Lee . . . . .	347	361	...	*51	333	367	333	357	316	353
Marcy . . . . .	201	160	167	181	183	189	182	202	170	182
Marshall . . . . .	275	152	231	180	290	214	293	193	296	214
New Hartford.	577	215	492	244	557	261	589	273	563	292
Paris . . . . .	515	260	482	248	530	286	557	296	515	317
Remsen . . . . .	408	214	332	213	376	252	402	248	401	241
Rome . . . . .	816	971	596	1,061	769	1,240	804	1,195	858	1,309
Sangerfield ...	264	230	232	260	246	285	253	317	284	339
Steuben . . . . .	254	82	203	97	234	101	146	102	221	94
Trenton . . . . .	603	292	538	200	588	227	532	187	626	199
Utica (1) ....	128	162	94	189	105	205	123	227	†2,413	†2,913
“ (2).....	278	278	223	305	292	331	271	372	...	...
“ (3).....	382	251	231	245	445	282	404	374	...	...
“ (4).....	433	279	400	278	463	301	483	324	...	...
“ (5).....	192	385	136	402	161	480	220	511	...	...
“ (6).....	363	429	287	462	342	532	379	562	...	...
“ (7).....	372	258	332	275	376	340	418	361	...	...
Vernon . . . . .	425	228	311	129	427	251	432	260	459	253
Verona . . . . .	695	306	499	530	667	622	636	608	647	511
Vienna . . . . .	315	242	352	330	438	392	356	368	147	114
Western . . . . .	250	296	...	...	257	287	...	*49	251	310
Westmoreland.	461	218	351	276	434	278	482	263	439	265
Whitestown ..	435	159	419	323	520	364	544	396	547	364

Total . . 12,218 8,786 9,328 8,737 12,073 10,931 11,995 10,846 12,312 11,072

\* Majority.

†Total vote in Utica.

	1870	1872	1874	1876	1879					
Towns	Stewart L. Woodford (Rep.)	John T. Hoffman (Dem.)	John A. Dix (Rep.)	Francis Kernan (Dem.)	John A. Dix (Rep.)	Samuel J. Tilden (Dem.)	Edwin D. Morgan (Rep.)	Lucius Robinson (Dem.)	Alonzo B. Cornell (Rep.)	Lucius Robinson (Dem.)
Annsville . . . .	264	327	273	317	210	316	280	377	218	259
Augusta . . . . .	295	193	288	206	276	219	*39	...	229	228
Ava . . . . .	122	103	127	105	...	...	75	95	124	134
Boonville . . . .	593	446	625	347	*213	...	556	340	598	407
Bridgewater ..	169	100	179	107	165	130	282	156	166	128
Camden . . . . .	553	322	550	305	431	301	536	356	436	319
Deerfield . . . .	241	227	251	212	221	232	271	264	246	211
Florence . . . . .	168	346	*	212	123	343	...	273	135	213
Floyd . . . . .	136	152	144	118	121	125	147	156	104	135
Forestport ...	122	158	130	140	135	150	...	...	148	145
Kirkland . . . . .	518	471	491	516	459	497	567	492	390	264
Lee . . . . .	309	330	*	15	243	308	315	356	223	331
Marey . . . . .	182	142	196	125	174	135	199	169	151	176
Marshall . . . . .	266	194	254	238	226	217	267	306	220	145
New Hartford.	498	265	580	282	470	328	535	351	464	360
Paris . . . . .	478	294	479	285	407	284	485	358	399	358
Remsen . . . . .	260	62	269	46	241	54	262	54	207	65
Rome (1).....	74	157	†1,041	†1,290	†967	†1,450	218	335	171	329
“ (2).....	99	259	...	...	...	...	154	297	120	233
“ (3).....	151	353	...	...	...	...	214	453	160	392
“ (4).....	155	222	...	...	...	...	234	276	181	249
“ (5).....	390	311	...	...	...	...	372	282	332	242
Sangerfield ...	256	330	*	75	271	373	340	434	287	340
Steuben . . . . .	198	80	211	60	186	60	203	94	57	6
Trenton . . . . .	578	201	575	191	547	171	645	187	516	200
Utica (1).....	118	192	†2,720	†3,044	147	151	136	162	129	110
“ (2).....	273	342	...	...	219	402	310	402	297	355
“ (3).....	499	334	...	...	484	409	635	442	577	411
“ (4).....	529	298	...	...	389	222	444	231	392	218
“ (5).....	129	358	...	...	44	233	58	239	75	163
“ (6).....	145	153	...	...	104	215	139	266	155	227
“ (7).....	437	360	...	...	501	461	696	590	578	557
“ (8).....	140	290	...	...	208	350	293	410	231	369
“ (9).....	306	338	...	...	330	385	463	484	370	501
“ (10).....	...	...	...	...	202	212	213	247	220	201
Vernon . . . . .	424	248	410	273	368	285	154	105	358	298
Verona . . . . .	532	584	674	365	810	622	471	358	535	437
Vienna . . . . .	369	316	361	257	289	317	...	*16	284	275
Western . . . . .	215	327	309	243	194	288	267	318	289	275
Westmoreland.	427	264	406	254	340	223	425	273	332	127
Whitestown ..	520	368	297	187	573	385	613	394	486	334
Total . . . .	11,874	10,288	11,840	9,815	11,258	10,853	12,510	11,398	11,590	10,727

\* Majority.

†Total vote in Utica

	1882	1885	1888	1891	1894					
Towns	Charles J. Folger (Rep.)	Grover Cleveland (Dem.)	Ira Davenport (Rep.)	David B. Hill (Dem.)	Warner Miller (Rep.)	David B. Hill (Dem.)	Jacob S. Fassett (Rep.)	Roswell P. Flower (Dem.)	Levi P. Morton (Rep.)	David B. Hill (Dem.)
Annsville . . . . .	207	335	298	234	346	297	154	170	230	223
Augusta . . . . .	146	255	254	254	292	281	240	227	257	221
Ava . . . . .	101	118	118	92	127	118	92	104	95	87
Boonville . . . . .	411	423	535	426	673	420	555	353	621	323
Bridgewater ..	86	140	147	142	180	139	138	120	169	113
Camden . . . . .	364	392	482	265	633	288	418	298	617	250
Deerfield . . . . .	193	215	267	211	288	228	202	172	242	146
Florence . . . . .	143	241	144	224	190	248	139	192	156	172
Floyd . . . . .	89	140	122	114	144	130	110	123	121	110
Forestport ...	123	157	219	122	247	141	190	106	235	101
Kirkland . . . . .	224	583	470	529	576	639	421	494	508	450
Lee . . . . .	171	360	193	306	253	296	222	241	245	188
Marcy . . . . .	121	191	164	129	214	158	163	183	191	164
Marshall . . . . .	136	192	248	209	291	277	245	217	195	190
New Hartford.	241	490	462	370	619	497	539	415	422	307
Paris . . . . .	238	372	356	284	465	394	337	337	372	270
Remsen . . . . .	163	85	198	62	232	75	187	55	203	56
Rome (1).....	178	333	252	351	350	485	316	401	326	387
“ (2).....	122	274	149	271	160	374	187	259	209	240
“ (3).....	159	120	186	361	250	502	225	379	227	355
“ (4).....	178	296	216	249	305	330	276	302	309	269
“ (5).....	274	318	376	239	500	285	419	311	492	224
Sangerfield ...	188	341	323	377	366	422	332	358	356	302
Steuben . . . . .	156	80	153	63	178	67	125	65	156	52
Trenton . . . . .	327	270	477	205	502	196	432	136	517	138
Utica (1).....	137	141	135	92	161	127	160	110	174	106
“ (2).....	164	515	362	358	397	526	407	462	477	452
“ (3).....	236	348	360	281	399	371	382	326	450	300
“ (4).....	304	322	438	256	511	349	316	299	475	267
“ (5).....	58	226	78	250	89	294	100	229	126	203
“ (6).....	103	267	163	254	119	392	176	274	238	266
“ (7).....	213	401	376	327	489	457	585	466	662	448
“ (8).....	211	489	286	555	472	834	474	866	737	945
“ (9).....	328	619	490	565	572	840	488	822	669	617
“ (10)....	160	273	204	245	245	297	229	295	269	294
“ (11)....	233	263	339	204	412	292	393	274	451	324
“ (12)....	275	334	437	296	636	448	635	465	786	478
Vernon . . . . .	263	345	358	277	468	352	387	297	459	254
Verona . . . . .	480	602	488	478	665	562	452	484	526	412
Vienna . . . . .	240	349	236	242	325	330	243	294	264	273
Western . . . . .	181	304	222	209	275	252	260	224	279	185
Westmoreland.	120	315	282	190	381	234	275	237	319	204
Whitestown ..	291	536	520	482	658	536	620	543	695	474
Total . . . . .	8,736	13,770	12,583	11,650	15,660	14,786	13,236	13,074	15,527	11,880



TOWNS	1896		1898		1900		1902	
	Frank Black (Rep.)	Wilbur F. Porter (Dem.)	Theodore Roosevelt (Rep.)	Augustus VanWyck (Dem.)	Benjamin B. Odell (Rep.)	John P. Sangerfield (Dem.)	Benjamin B. Odell (Rep.)	Bird S. Coler (Dem.)
Annsville .....	269	228	223	197	273	147	186	209
Augusta .....	286	202	244	249	330	216	251	203
Ava .....	92	112	95	110	107	94	69	110
Boonville .....	639	292	579	415	620	325	425	349
Bridgewater .....	207	67	183	92	221	84	155	88
Camden .....	724	201	694	255	749	247	691	266
Deerfield .....	243	180	219	185	279	172	232	157
Florence .....	164	164	130	180	184	163	166	184
Floyd .....	114	99	104	101	130	91	115	80
Forestport .....	280	129	203	152	216	117	165	132
Kirkland .....	515	482	551	481	635	515	556	498
Lee .....	260	177	230	215	269	210	207	207
Marey .....	227	146	173	164	219	147	211	159
Marshall .....	304	187	257	204	283	221	253	179
New Hartford .....	571	305	526	332	729	430	388	346
Paris .....	438	316	361	309	424	323	318	286
Remsen .....	229	57	187	57	230	58	193	57
Rome (1).....	356	358	351	456	455	420	318	479
“ (2).....	216	244	197	274	265	268	185	297
“ (3).....	231	384	256	416	307	417	240	396
“ (4).....	353	250	332	294	378	304	280	352
“ (5).....	528	241	513	308	564	318	449	382
Sangerfield .....	386	245	290	317	357	305	264	276
Steuben .....	144	71	146	57	157	73	130	69
Trenton .....	566	139	484	187	544	154	478	174
Utica (1).....	186	95	159	124	187	71	184	39
“ (2).....	520	488	310	555	495	474	360	532
“ (3).....	473	312	408	328	504	304	372	338
“ (4).....	479	236	439	282	474	306	355	335
“ (5).....	124	192	111	192	156	163	120	167
“ (6).....	229	302	214	335	250	285	196	351
“ (7).....	762	467	451	293	788	548	646	632
“ (8).....	944	1,073	526	972	779	1,008	584	1,122
“ (9).....	771	816	452	726	587	682	470	690
“ (10).....	304	277	244	296	277	308	225	349
“ (11).....	500	297	466	374	549	300	348	389
“ (12).....	877	500	458	427	548	422	444	477
“ (13).....	...	...	221	314	288	265	284	256
“ (14).....	...	...	207	228	279	236	245	292
“ (15).....	...	...	451	266	507	258	418	320
Vernon .....	484	246	393	299	503	296	434	302

	1896	1898	1900	1902				
Towns	Frank Black (Rep.)	Wilbur F. Porter (Dem.)	Theodore Roosevelt (Rep.)	Augustus VanWyck (Dem.)	Benjamin B. Odell (Rep.)	John R. Stanchfield (Dem.)	Benjamin B. Odell (Rep.)	Erl S. Coler (Dem.)
Verona .....	411	293	510	455	575	430	*	22
Vienna .....	352	212	289	287	347	221	284	255
Western .....	266	191	245	225	254	205	259	187
Westmoreland .....	353	179	284	187	383	169	295	186
Whitestown .....	859	455	763	563	899	528	693	661
Total .....	17,236	11,901	15,129	13,739	18,554	13,493	14,028	13,982

\* Majority.

	1904	1906	1908	1910				
TOWNS	Frank Higgins (Rep.)	B. Cady Herrick (Dem.)	Charles Hughes (Rep.)	William R. Hearst (Dem.)	Charles Hughes (Rep.)	William Chandler (Dem.)	Henry R. Stimson (Rep.)	John A. Dix (Dem.)
Annsville.....	244	203	265	169	223	197	161	193
Augusta .....	316	219	290	163	318	212	247	261
Ava .....	64	34	80	65	79	76	61	72
Boonville .....	536	380	522	265	574	376	500	355
Bridgewater .....	174	92	165	60	154	100	124	91
Camden .....	651	361	690	244	599	334	453	324
Deerfield .....	241	185	255	162	231	208	212	192
Florence .....	169	169	152	135	148	160	107	137
Floyd .....	...	...	116	83	120	81	83	78
Forestport .....	230	119	191	85	64	136	108	104
Kirkland .....	609	472	607	395	639	512	563	488
Lee .....	213	226	214	182	244	213	198	196
Marey .....	215	163	217	103	213	161	169	147
Marshall .....	299	200	261	161	278	237	214	196
New Hartford .....	687	475	729	447	815	564	700	545
Paris .....	375	282	396	212	423	303	349	221
Remsen .....	195	65	210	43	208	68	183	72
Rome (1).....	175	292	168	216	181	263	111	223
“ (2).....	232	304	169	217	264	253	180	257
“ (3).....	325	445	276	334	335	432	220	380
“ (4).....	367	415	329	303	446	372	366	407
“ (5).....	306	211	291	186	386	212	323	250
“ (6).....	304	199	277	152	318	205	277	208
“ (7).....	236	259	220	234	270	295	237	271
Sangerfield .....	307	304	332	197	302	317	188	275

	1884	1886	1888	1890				
Towns	Frank Higgins (Rep.)	H. Cady Herrick (Dem.)	Charles Hughes (Rep.)	William R. Hearst (Dem.)	Charles Hughes (Rep.)	William Chanler (Dem.)	Henry R. Stinson (Rep.)	John A. Dix (Dem.)
Stenben .....	140	64	123	41	126	65	95	67
Trenton .....	492	153	501	97	527	153	419	183
Utica (1).....	39	200	82	164	76	216	44	203
“ (2).....	423	561	396	380	401	521	203	554
“ (3).....	478	397	523	267	516	398	331	413
“ (4).....	441	350	452	211	436	320	321	359
“ (5).....	153	219	133	174	162	187	105	184
“ (6).....	241	377	206	292	225	399	192	360
“ (7).....	870	664	951	484	1,017	631	801	360
“ (8) .....	832	1,198	715	1,006	956	1,201	668	1,259
“ (9).....	593	763	533	618	601	812	442	777
“ (10).....	295	395	321	267	315	353	134	336
“ (11).....	509	465	555	354	620	486	509	507
“ (12).....	582	513	546	412	577	571	513	516
“ (13).....	337	335	325	313	387	432	377	442
“ (14).....	337	288	278	279	348	386	301	338
“ (15).....	485	334	488	283	579	359	486	380
Vernon .....	515	344	474	257	526	346	438	314
Verona .....	550	470	519	340	549	417	345	332
Vienna .....	298	247	287	181	319	236	145	121
Western .....	233	217	225	167	234	180	208	177
Westmoreland .....	328	200	313	167	352	188	272	190
Whitestown .....	849	648	780	574	808	715	681	642
Total .....	17,527	15,476	17,154	12,140	18,499	15,859	14,372	15,313

## POPULATION

The following table gives the population of the county from its organization to the census of 1910. It will appear that certain towns, originally a part of Oneida county, are dropped from the tables when they ceased to be a part of the county, having been taken off in the organization of St. Lawrence, Lewis, Jefferson and Oswego counties.

	1790	1800	1810	1814	1820	1825
Annsville .....	....	....	....	....	....	1,161
Augusta .....	....	1,598	2,004	2,377	2,771	2,911
Ava .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Boonville .....	....	....	393	812	1,294	2,071
Bridgewater .....	....	1,061	1,170	1,322	1,533	1,525
Camden .....	....	384	1,132	1,340	1,772	1,598
Deerfield .....	....	1,048	1,232	1,921	2,346	3,331
Florence .....	....	....	396	394	640	678
Floyd .....	....	767	970	1,324	1,498	1,557
Forestport .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Kirkland .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Lee .....	....	....	....	1,724	2,186	2,077
Marcy .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Marshall .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
New Hartford .....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Paris .....	....	4,721	5,418	6,535	6,707	6,810
Remsen .....	....	2,254	489	655	912	1,070
Rome .....	....	1,497	2,003	3,069	3,569	3,531
Sangerfield .....	....	1,143	1,324	1,917	2,011	1,986
Steuben .....	....	552	1,105	1,082	1,461	1,674
Trenton .....	....	624	1,548	2,128	2,617	2,233
Utica .....	....	....	....	....	2,972	5,040
Vernon .....	....	....	1,519	2,308	2,707	2,807
Verona .....	....	....	1,014	1,987	2,447	2,845
Vienna .....	....	....	†454	547	1,307	1,479
Western .....	....	1,493	*2,416	1,557	2,237	2,190
Westmoreland .....	....	1,542	1,135	2,480	2,791	3,270
Whitestown .....	1,891	4,212	4,912	5,148	5,219	6,003
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,891</b>	<b>20,839</b>	<b>30,634</b>	<b>45,627</b>	<b>50,997</b>	<b>57,847</b>

\*Western and Lee.

†Formerly Bengal.



	1830	1835	1840	1845	1850	1855
Annsville .....	1,481	1,352	1,765	2,192	2,686	2,715
Augusta .....	3,058	3,347	2,175	2,117	2,271	2,383
Ava .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,037	1,242
Boonville .....	2,746	3,012	5,519	3,653	3,306	4,424
Bridgewater .....	1,608	1,449	1,418	1,351	1,315	1,203
Camden .....	1,945	2,114	2,331	2,434	2,820	2,900
Deerfield .....	4,182	2,536	3,120	2,347	2,287	2,257
Florence .....	964	1,106	1,259	1,994	2,575	2,812
Floyd .....	1,699	1,795	1,742	1,592	1,495	1,443
Forestport .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Kirkland .....	2,505	3,497	2,984	3,014	3,421	3,809
Lee .....	2,514	2,618	2,936	2,963	3,033	3,020
Marey .....	.....	1,730	1,799	1,769	1,857	1,767
Marshall .....	1,908	2,579	2,251	2,148	2,115	2,147
New Hartford .....	3,599	3,909	3,819	4,043	4,847	4,517
Paris .....	2,765	2,849	2,844	3,097	4,283	3,695
Remsen .....	1,400	1,498	1,638	1,903	2,407	2,684
Rome .....	4,360	4,505	5,680	5,955	7,918	10,720
Sangerfield .....	2,272	2,242	2,251	2,272	2,371	2,424
Stenben .....	2,094	2,159	1,993	1,924	1,744	1,592
Trenton .....	3,221	3,220	3,178	3,543	3,540	3,987
Utica .....	8,323	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
1st ward .....	.....	1,633	1,738	1,574	.....	1,443
2d ward .....	.....	1,755	2,392	1,963	.....	2,799
3d ward .....	.....	2,731	3,781	3,490	.....	3,111
4th ward .....	.....	4,064	4,871	5,163	.....	4,827
5th ward .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5,380
6th ward .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,609
Total Utica .....	.....	10,183	12,782	12,190	17,565	22,169
Vernon .....	3,045	2,827	3,043	3,074	3,093	3,005
Verona .....	3,739	4,155	4,504	4,942	5,570	6,923
Vienna .....	1,766	2,172	2,530	2,867	3,393	3,248
Western .....	2,419	2,502	3,488	2,523	2,516	2,546
Westmoreland .....	3,303	3,140	3,105	3,072	3,291	3,279
Whitestown .....	4,410	5,022	5,156	5,797	6,810	4,838
Totals .....	71,326	77,518	85,310	84,776	99,566	107,749

	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1890
Amnsville .....	2,837	2,685	2,716	2,626	2,554	2,068
Augusta .....	2,213	2,061	2,067	2,233	2,171	1,984
Ava .....	1,260	1,121	1,160	1,022	1,039	860
Boonville .....	4,212	4,228	4,106	4,063	3,996	3,509
Bridgewater .....	1,261	1,252	1,258	1,307	1,218	1,073
Camden .....	3,187	3,533	3,687	3,538	3,392	3,991
Deerfield .....	2,249	2,071	2,045	2,098	2,082	1,954
Florence .....	2,802	2,467	2,299	2,181	2,073	1,489
Floyd .....	1,440	1,227	1,209	1,142	1,115	920
Forestport .....	....	....	1,276	1,280	1,358	1,519
Kirkland .....	4,185	4,044	4,912	4,749	4,984	4,852
Lee .....	2,796	2,714	2,656	2,413	2,360	1,845
Marcy .....	1,687	1,517	1,451	1,418	1,413	1,213
Marshall .....	2,134	2,141	2,145	2,215	2,276	2,145
New Hartford .....	4,395	3,654	4,037	4,382	4,394	5,005
Paris .....	3,762	3,595	3,575	3,593	3,573	3,211
Remsen .....	2,670	2,650	1,184	1,166	1,195	1,099
Rome city: .....	9,830	9,478	....	....	....	....
1st ward .....	....	....	1,196	2,492	2,370	3,348
2d ward .....	....	....	2,141	2,296	2,651	2,698
3d ward .....	....	....	2,724	2,573	2,721	3,069
4th ward .....	....	....	1,803	2,274	2,145	2,566
5th ward .....	....	....	3,136	2,616	2,807	3,310
Total Rome city.....	....	....	11,000	12,251	12,194	14,991
Sangerfield .....	2,343	2,357	2,513	2,913	3,171	3,017
Steuben .....	1,541	1,416	1,261	1,220	1,223	1,005
Trenton .....	3,504	3,199	3,156	3,118	3,097	2,709
Utica city						
1st ward .....	1,431	1,309	1,329	1,171	1,025	1,141
2d ward .....	2,695	2,733	3,383	3,530	3,345	4,054
3d ward .....	3,388	3,190	4,038	4,670	2,900	3,048
4th ward .....	3,674	3,667	3,866	3,093	2,703	2,988
5th ward .....	3,096	3,246	2,532	1,582	1,593	1,668
6th ward .....	4,839	5,527	1,938	1,962	1,962	2,297
7th ward .....	3,406	4,014	4,583	5,932	3,469	4,625
8th ward .....	....	....	2,454	3,425	3,901	6,354
9th ward .....	....	....	4,681	5,098	5,393	7,224
10th ward .....	....	....	....	2,033	2,289	2,322
11th ward .....	....	....	....	....	2,099	3,135
12th ward .....	....	....	....	....	3,235	5,151
Total Utica city .....	22,529	23,686	28,804	32,496	33,914	44,007

	1860	1865	1870	1875	1880	1890
Vernon .....	2,908	2,931	2,840	3,007	3,056	3,016
Verona .....	5,967	5,964	5,757	5,476	5,287	4,535
Vienna .....	3,460	3,408	3,180	3,064	2,834	2,220
Western .....	2,497	2,352	2,423	2,244	2,264	1,817
Westmoreland .....	3,166	2,978	2,952	2,752	2,744	2,313
Whitestown .....	4,367	3,984	4,339	4,368	4,498	5,155
Total .....	105,202	102,713	110,008	114,335	115,475	122,922

	1892	1900	1905
Annsville .....	1,963	1,744	1,621
Augusta .....	1,983	2,029	2,032
Ava .....	828	706	609
Boonville .....	3,512	3,332	3,167
Bridgewater .....	1,053	931	961
Camden .....	3,675	3,745	3,750
Deerfield .....	1,611	1,756	1,615
Florence .....	1,415	1,205	1,086
Floyd .....	842	782	739
Forestport .....	1,604	1,565	1,457
Kirkland .....	4,636	4,541	4,543
Lee .....	1,900	1,578	1,485
Marey .....	1,458	1,397	1,385
Marshall .....	2,069	1,804	1,762
New Hartford .....	4,935	5,230	5,463
Paris .....	3,166	2,626	2,430
Remsen .....	1,233	1,208	1,059
Rome city:			
1st ward .....	3,157	3,860	2,438
2d ward .....	1,912	2,469	2,242
3d ward .....	2,774	2,881	3,039
4th ward .....	2,427	2,738	2,979
5th ward .....	3,204	3,395	1,985
6th ward .....	....	....	1,723
7th ward .....	....	....	1,978
Inmates of institutions .....	164	....	178
Total Rome city .....	13,638	15,343	16,562

	1892	1900	1905
Sangerfield .....	2,836	2,440	2,246
Stenben .....	946	902	788
Trenton .....	2,629	2,628	2,562
Utica city:			
1st ward .....	1,252	1,267	1,274
2d ward .....	4,629	4,748	5,460
3d ward .....	3,289	3,179	3,120
4th ward .....	3,279	2,890	2,977
5th ward .....	1,613	2,086	2,855
6th ward .....	2,329	2,455	2,592
7th ward .....	4,757	5,577	6,404
8th ward .....	7,348	8,316	10,355
9th ward .....	6,526	5,520	6,049
10th ward .....	2,439	2,598	2,750
11th ward .....	3,303	3,870	4,368
12th ward .....	5,413	4,185	4,446
13th ward .....	....	2,826	3,444
14th ward .....	....	3,648	3,204
15th ward .....	....	3,218	3,376
Inmates of institutions .....	431	...	260
Total Utica city.....	46,608	56,383	62,934
Vernon .....	2,937	2,784	3,072
Verona .....	4,532	3,875	3,636
Vienna .....	2,303	2,218	1,958
Western .....	1,773	1,621	1,442
Westmoreland .....	2,333	2,192	2,067
Whitestown .....	5,225	6,235	6,895
Inmates of institutions .....	113	....	15
Total .....	123,756	132,800	139,341
			1910
Annsville town .....			1,449
Augusta town, including Oriskany Falls village .....			1,959
Oriskany Falls village .....			892
Ava town .....			563
Boonville town including Boonville village .....			3,191
Boonville village .....			1,794
Bridgewater town including Bridgewater village .....			832
Bridgewater village .....			245
Camden town including Camden village .....			3,426
Camden village .....			2,170
Deerfield town .....			1,660
Florence town .....			936



	1910
Floyd town .....	697
Forestport town including Forestport village .....	1,100
Forestport village .....	507
Kirkland town including Clinton village .....	4,333
Clinton village .....	1,236
Lee town .....	1,379
Marey town .....	1,301
Marshall town including Waterville village .....	1,744
Waterville village (part of) .....	242
Total for Waterville village in Marshall and Sangerfield towns .....	1,410
New Hartford town including New Hartford village .....	5,947
New Hartford village .....	1,195
Paris town, including Clayville village .....	2,659
Clayville village .....	649
Remsen town including part of Remsen village .....	1,087
Remsen village (part of) .....	395
Total for Remsen village in Remsen and Trenton towns .....	421
Rome city .....	20,497
Ward 1 .....	3,066
Ward 2 .....	3,564
Ward 3 .....	3,556
Ward 4 .....	3,285
Ward 5 .....	2,631
Ward 6 .....	1,910
Ward 7 .....	2,485
Sangerfield town, including part of Waterville village .....	2,086
Waterville village (part of) .....	1,168
Steuben town .....	785
Trenton town including Holland Patent, Prospect, and Trenton villages and part of Remsen village .....	2,402
Holland Patent village .....	337
Prospect village .....	278
Remsen village (part of) .....	26
Trenton village .....	289
Utica city .....	74,419
Ward 1 .....	1,391
Ward 2 .....	6,674
Ward 3 .....	3,225
Ward 4 .....	3,207
Ward 5 .....	3,312
Ward 6 .....	2,645
Ward 7 .....	6,980
Ward 8 .....	14,471
Ward 9 .....	6,237
Ward 10 .....	3,245
Ward 11 .....	5,471

	1910
Ward 12 .....	4,675
Ward 13 .....	4,253
Ward 14 .....	4,843
Ward 15 .....	3,790
Vernon town including Oneida Castle and Vernon villages .....	3,197
Oneida Castle village .....	393
Vernon village .....	451
Verona town including New London village .....	3,456
New London village .....	108
Vienna town, including Sylvan Beach village .....	1,904
Sylvan Beach village .....	169
Western town .....	1,355
Westmoreland town .....	1,995
Whitestown town including Whitesboro and Yorkville villages .....	7,798
Whitesboro village .....	2,375
Yorkville village .....	691
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Total Oneida county .....	154,157

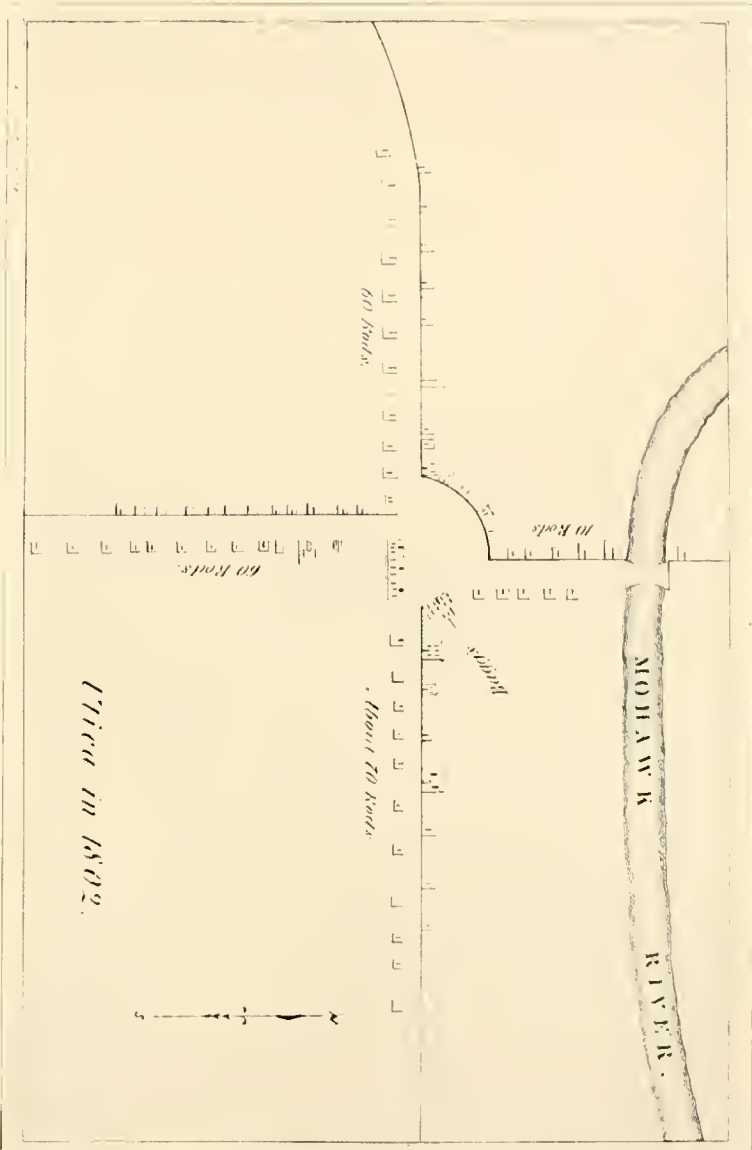
## CHAPTER XX

### MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS AND STATISTICS

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND OTHER COUNTY OFFICERS—Although the board of supervisors has existed probably since 1777, there is no provision of constitution or statute that prescribes the powers and duties of that board until a much later date. The constitution of 1777 made no reference to such a board, and the constitution of 1821 recognizes the fact that there are supervisors, but makes no provision for a board of supervisors. Section 7 of article 4 of the constitution of 1821 provides what officers should be appointed by the supervisors, and makes some other provisions in regard to the conduct of the affairs of the county. The first legislation of importance upon the subject was the act of April 8, 1810, which fixes the duties of the supervisors in a town. The election of town officers was provided for by the act of March 27, 1801. The first constitutional provision in regard to the board of supervisors, as such, is section 26 of article 3 of the constitution of 1894, and is as follows:

“There shall be in each county, except in a county wholly included in a city, a board of supervisors, to be composed of such members and elected in such a manner and for such a period as is or may be provided by law. In a city which includes an entire county, or two or more entire counties, the powers and duties of a board of supervisors may be devolved upon the municipal assembly, common council, board of aldermen or other legislative body of the city.”

There had been legislation upon the subject of the powers of the boards of supervisors from time to time prior to the adoption of the constitutional provision above referred to, notably in 1875, when, by the act of June 5 of that year, the board of supervisors was given many additional powers to those which it had possessed prior to that time. A general revision of the law was made and adopted as the county law in 1909. This statute is known as chapter 11 of the consolidated laws passed February 17, 1909, and contains general provisions for all the powers of the board of supervisors. The statute is quite complete in itself, and extends the powers of the board beyond those which it had possessed prior to the enactment of the law. The election of supervisors was for many years held in the spring, and the supervisor was elected for one year, but this was changed by the act of 1901. One supervisor was elected for each town, and one for each ward, and for many years the number in the county has been even so that it frequently occurs that the board is divided evenly between the two great parties, and it is often extremely difficult to organize the board, as required by law. At the present time there are 48 supervisors in the board, which is unfortunate, as it would be much better if the board were uneven, so that one or the other of the great parties would have control of it and be responsible to the people for its acts.



Missouri in 1872.

60 rods.

60 rods.

About 70 rods.

10 rods

BRIDGE





The county officers from time to time have been changed, and the number occasionally increased. At present they consist of sheriff, county judge, special county judge, county clerk, county treasurer, surrogate, special surrogate, coroners and county comptroller, the last named office being new, having been established in 1910, the first comptroller being elected at the fall election of that year. There is a county superintendent of highways, but he is appointed by the board of supervisors, and Paul Schultze occupies that position at the present time.

The following list contains the chairmen and clerks of the boards of supervisors from 1878:

*Chairman**Clerk*

1878—Griffith M. Jones, Utica.	Albert N. Borst, Bridgewater.
1879—Joseph B. Cushman, Utica.	Joseph Porter, Rome.
1880—Eli S. Bearss, Lee.	Joseph Porter, Rome.
1881—Robert W. Evans, Kirkland.	Burt I. Waldo, North Western.
1882—Julius C. Day, Marshall.	Rouse B. Maxfield, Annsville.
1883—Frederick A. Goff, Utica.	Charles E. Howe, Waterville.
1884—John F. Gaffney, Utica.	Charles E. Howe, Waterville.
1885—William J. Cramond, Rome.	Rouse B. Maxfield, Utica.
1886—James H. Flanagan, Vienna.	Joseph B. Cushman, Jr., Vernon.
1887—James H. Flanagan, Vienna.	Leroy F. Shepard, Utica.
1888—Francis X. Salzman, Forestport.	Fred W. Lobdell, Rome.
1889—Carl T. Seibel, Verona.	Fred W. Lobdell, Rome.
1890—David A. Barnum, Paris.	Thomas W. Mulford, Rome.
1891—Lewis D. Edwards, Saugerfield.	Fred W. Lobdell, Rome.
1892—Francis X. Salzman, Forestport.	William H. Wratten, Utica.
1893—James A. Douglass, Augusta.	William H. Wratten, Utica.
1894—Albert P. Seaton, New Hartford.	Fred W. Lobdell, Rome.
1895—Albert P. Seaton, New Hartford.	Fred W. Lobdell, Rome.
1896—John W. Potter, Marcy.	Stuart F. Day, Utica.
1897—John W. Potter, Marcy.	Stuart F. Day, Utica.
1898—John W. Potter, Marcy.	Stuart F. Day, Utica.
1899—John W. Potter, Marcy.	Stuart F. Day, Utica.
1900—John W. Potter, Marcy.	Stuart F. Day, Utica.
1901—William J. Brown, Utica.	Stuart F. Day, Utica.
1902—Oswald P. Backus, Rome.	James H. McGarrity, Utica.
1903—Frederick E. Swancott, Utica.	James H. McGarrity, Utica.
1904—Frederick E. Swancott, Utica.	Gervase Flower, Westmoreland.
1905—Frederick E. Swancott, Utica.	Gervase Flower, Westmoreland.
1906—Fred F. Lorin, Westmoreland.	A. H. Vandawalker, Camden,
1907—Fred F. Lorin, Westmoreland.	A. H. Vandawalker, Camden,
1908—Harry J. Moss, Utica.	F. E. Niess, Boonville.
1909—Theodore Chrestien, McConnells- ville.	Margaret H. Ward, Utica.
1910—Albert P. Seaton, New Hartford.	Margaret H. Ward, Utica.
1911—William Walsh, Bridgewater.	Grover C. Flint, Lee Center.

## UTICA

Prior to the organization of Utica as a village it had existed as a considerable hamlet known as Fort Schuyler, and, to distinguish it from Fort Schuyler (Fort Stanwix) at Rome, it was frequently called Old Fort Schuyler. Having a population which was deemed sufficient for a more formal organization than had previously existed, application was made to the Legislature for a special charter incorporating the hamlet under the name of the Village of Utica. An act was passed April 3, 1798, entitled "An act to vest certain powers in the freeholders and inhabitants of the village commonly known by the name of Old Fort Schuyler." The first section of the act described the territory to be incorporated as follows: "That the district or country contained within the following bounds, to wit: Beginning at a point or place on the south side of the Mohawk river where the division line between lot number 97 and 98 in Cosby's Manor strikes the said river, thence running southerly in the said division line to a point in the same forty chains southerly of the great road leading to Fort Stanwix, thence east 37 degrees south to the easterly line of the county of Oneida, thence northerly in the said county line to the Mohawk river, thence westerly up the waters thereof to the place of beginning, shall hereafter be known and distinguished by the name of the Village of Utica." The act also provides who the qualified voters should be at the meeting to be held for the election of officers of the village; provided also for the election of five freeholders, residents of the village, as trustees. It will be noticed here that the officers were confined to freeholders, in other words, those who owned real estate. The right of suffrage was somewhat broader, as a man 21 years of age and paying a certain rent was entitled to vote, but under this charter, could not be a trustee. The trustees were given general powers over the village, and the right to appoint a fire company. The officers for the respective years that this charter was in effect cannot be ascertained, for the reason that all the records were destroyed by fire in February, 1804.

The inhabitants of the village were not satisfied for many years with their charter as it existed, and in 1805 presented a petition to the legislature for a more comprehensive charter. After setting forth the reasons for desiring the change the petition closed as follows: "For these and other reasons your petitioners therefore pray, that your honorable body will grant to the freeholders, inhabitants and trustees of the said village, powers similar to those enjoyed by the village of Poughkeepsie; in order that the above and many other existing evils may be avoided; that the bounds of said village may be extended, and that the annual meetings of the inhabitants of said village may be hereafter on the first Tuesday in April in each year."

The trustees of the village for the first year were Jeremiah VanRensselaer, Jr., Nathan Williams, Francis A. Bloodgood, Jerathmel Ballou and Erastus Clark. Mr. VanRensselaer was elected president, and D. W. Childs, clerk. Isaac Coe was elected treasurer, and Worden Hammond collector.

At this time officers of the village were elected annually, and at the second election, held in 1806, all of the trustees were re-elected.

The following year, 1807, Mr. Bloodgood was not reelected, but John Hooker

was elected in his stead, and Erastus Clark was made president. Under the charter no persons could vote except freeholders, and the office of trustee was also confined to freeholders. This excluded a large number of the inhabitants from participation in the village government.

In 1808 the freeholders elected as trustees Morris S. Miller, Jerathmel Ballou, John Hooker, Nathaniel Butler and John Bellinger, and Mr. Miller was elected president of the board.

The annual freeholders' meeting was usually held at the hotel, and in 1809 the board remained the same, except that Talcott Camp and Solomon Wolcott were elected in place of Morris S. Miller and Nathaniel Butler, and Mr. Camp was made president.

Considerable change was made in the board of trustees for the year 1810, and it is difficult to determine upon what lines the freeholders divided, whether politically or whether with regard to local improvements. In this year Mr. Camp remained in the board, and the other members were John C. Hoyt, John C. Devereux, Rudolph Snyder and Abraham M. Walton.

In 1811 Mr. Camp and Mr. Devereux were re-elected, and the other trustees were Jeremiah VanRensselaer, Frederick White and E. B. Sherman. Mr. Camp was made president, John C. Hoyt treasurer, and Nicholas Smith collector.

The following interesting facts concerning the life of Nicholas Smith may as well be given here as elsewhere. In one of the Indian raids on the Lower Mohawk his grandfather and grandmother were massacred, and his aunt fled to the woods carrying Nicholas, who was then about one year of age, in her arms. Discovering that she would be overtaken by the Indians, she concealed the baby in the woods and continued to flee, but was overtaken, scalped and left for dead. She, however, recovered, was found by the whites, and remembered where she had placed the child. He was found, and, although left an orphan he was cared for, and was the Nicholas Smith who was well known in the early history of the city of Utica. The above incidents were received by the author from his son, William B. Smith, who is still living in Utica at the age of 88.

A controversy arose at the election of 1812, but it is difficult to ascertain just what the trouble was. There seems to have been a dispute about who had been elected, and a second ballot was had, when it was declared that Talcott Camp, Jeremiah VanRensselaer, E. B. Sherman, Morris Miller, Byron Johnson and Thomas Skinner were elected. Mr. Miller declined to serve. Mr. Johnson also declined to serve, and Arthur Breese was elected to the vacancy. The same officers were elected collector and treasurer who had served during the previous year.

During the year 1813 a market had been erected in the public square. This was a source of controversy, and it entered into the political situation. The candidates for trustees were supported or opposed upon the ground of their being for or against the market. The result of the election was the selection of Moses Bagg, Montgomery Hunt, Seth Dwight, E. B. Sherman and Talcott Camp. A special election was called upon the subject of selling the market, and it was determined in the negative.

In 1814 the board of trustees consisted of Talcott Camp, Jeremiah VanRens-



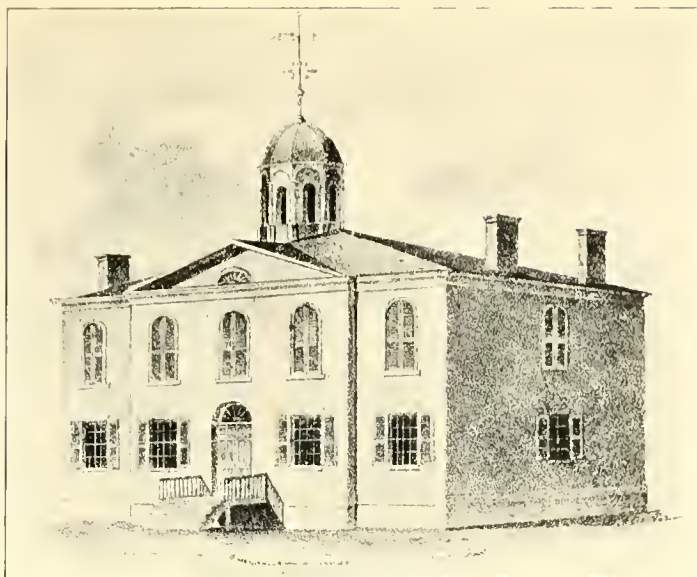
selaer, Nathan Williams, Killian Winne and Samuel Stoecking. Mr. Camp was made president, John H. Ostrom, clerk, with the same treasurer and collector as of the previous year.

In the election of 1815 the board of trustees consisted of Abram VanSantvoort, Augustus Hickox, Gurdon Burchard, Jason Parker and William Geere. Mr. VanSanvoort was made president, and Mr. Parker refused to serve.

In 1816 the board of trustees was changed materially, and consisted of Rudolph Snyder, Ezra S. Cozier, Augustus Hickox, Gurdon Burchard and William Geere. Mr. Snyder was made president, and the other officers remained the same as the previous year, so far as the record shows.

In 1817 the village asked for a still more extensive charter, which was granted April 7, 1817, and was known as "An act to incorporate the village of Utica." The village was, at this time, divided into three wards, which were described as follows: All that part of the said village contained within the following bounds, to wit: Beginning in the northerly line of said village, where the center or middle of Genesee street extended would strike the said northerly bounds, running thence through the center or middle of Genesee street to the center or middle of John street; thence along the center or middle of John street, to the center or middle of Broad street; thence easterly from the center or middle of Broad street, to the center or middle of First street; thence southerly on a direct line through the center or middle of First street to the southerly line of the said village; thence easterly along the southerly bounds of said village, to the easterly line of said village; thence northerly along the said easterly line of said village to the northerly line of said village; thence along the northerly bounds of the said village to the place of beginning, shall constitute one ward, and shall be denominated the first ward; and all that part of said village, contained within the following bounds, to wit: beginning in the northerly line of said village where the center or middle of Genesee street extended would strike the said northerly bounds, thence southerly along the westerly line of first ward to the southerly bounds of said village; thence westerly along the southerly bounds of said village to the center or middle of Genesee street; thence northerly through the center or middle of Genesee street to the center or middle of Hotel street; thence through the center or middle of Hotel street to Whitesborough street; thence across Whitesborough street to the southeasterly corner of the York House; thence along the easterly side of said York House in a direct line to the northerly bounds of the said village; thence along the northerly bounds of said village to the place of beginning, shall constitute one ward, and be denominated the second ward; and all that part of said village contained within the following bounds, to wit: Beginning at the northwest corner of the second ward, running thence northerly along the westerly line of said second ward to the southerly bounds of said village; thence westerly along the southerly bounds of said village to the westerly bounds of said village; thence northerly along the westerly bounds of said village to the northerly bounds of said village; thence easterly along the northerly bounds of the said village to the place of beginning, shall constitute one ward and be denominated the third ward.

The fourth section of the act incorporating the village had an unusual pro-



FIRST COURTHOUSE IN UTICA  
Also used as an academy and public hall



SECOND COURTHOUSE IN UTICA



vision. This provision was "That the person administering the government of the state, by and with the consent of the council of appointment, shall annually, during the session of the legislature, or at such time as the said council shall be assembled next after the first day of May in every year, nominate and appoint, out of the inhabitants of said village, one fit and discreet freeholder to be trustee of said village, who shall be president of the board of trustees of said village, which said president shall be ex-officio a justice of the peace." It would seem as if the controlling element in the state had not yet got far enough away from the idea that all power came from the king to trust even the inhabitants of a large village to manage their own affairs. It was provided by this statute that the trustees should appoint certain other village officers, the provisions of the statute upon that subject being as follows: "The said board of trustees shall annually meet at some place in said village on the third Monday of May, in each year forever, and by plurality of votes, appoint one clerk, one treasurer, one or more collectors and overseers of the poor, one or more poundmasters, fence viewers, porters, carriers, carters, truckmen, packers, beadles, bellmen, common criers, scavengers, measurers, surveyors and gaugers, or such of them as they shall think proper." It was also provided by the thirtieth section of the act that all that portion of the town of Whitestown which was included in the limits of the village of Utica, as described in the act, should be from that time forward a separate town by the name of Utica. This was the last village charter, and under it the inhabitants had realized a degree of prosperity greater than that in any other part of the county. It was said by Dr. Josiah Strong that all localities take their character from the early settlers, and if this applies to Utica, it is probably an explanation of the progress that was made by the early inhabitants in this part of the country, as, it is safe to say, no better class of people ever took up the development of a country than those who settled in this favored locality.

The first election of trustees under the new charter resulted in the selection in the year 1817 of Ezra Cozier and William Williams, first ward; second ward, Jeremiah VanRensselaer and Abram VanSantvoort; third ward, Erastus Clark and John C. Hoyt. The governor appointed Nathan Williams one of the trustees, and by the statute he became president of the board. The assessors were Moses Bagg, David P. Hoyt and Thomas Walker. Benjamin Walker was elected supervisor; Ezra P. Barnum and Joshua Ostrom were appointed constables, and the following additional officers were elected: Clerk, John H. Ostrom; overseer of the poor, Jeremiah VanRensselaer; treasurer, Judah Williams; poundmaster, Frederick W. Potter; fence viewers, Benjamin Hinman, Jason Parker and Aaron Eggleston; gauger, James Hooker; superintendent of highways, Benjamin Ballou. Truly a great array of officers to care for the interests of a small village.

It would seem that about this time politics entered into the selection of trustees of the village, and it resulted in the setting aside of some of the prominent citizens and choosing others in their stead. The board elected in 1818 consisted of Ezra S. Cozier, John E. Hinman, first ward; second ward, Abram VanSantvoort and Enos Brown; third ward, Rudolph Snyder and Marcus Hitchcock. John C. Devereux and Jeremiah VanRensselaer were candidates for office at this election, but were defeated.



In 1819 the board elected consisted of, first ward, Ezra S. Cozier, John E. Hinman; second ward, David P. Hoyt, Gurdon Burchard; third ward, William Alverson, Rudolph Snyder; the other officers remained the same as during the previous year.

In 1820 the board consisted of: first ward, Ezra S. Cozier, John E. Hinman; second ward, Abram E. Culver, James Hooker; third ward, Ezekiel Bacon, Thomas Walker. The governor appointed Rudolph Snyder president of the board.

In 1821 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, Benjamin Ballou, Jr., John Baxter; second ward, James Hooker, John H. Hardy; third ward, Thomas Walker, David P. Hoyt; Ezra S. Cozier was appointed president.

In 1822 Mr. Cozier was again designated as president, and the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, John Baxter, Benjamin Ballou, Jr.; second ward, Ezekiel Bacon, Richard R. Lansing; third ward, Thomas Walker, David P. Hoyt.

For the first time the subject of paving the streets seems to have been seriously considered, and it was voted to pave from the Canal to the south line of Whitesboro and Main streets. For the information of those who have never seen the first pavement used in this part of the country, it is well to state that the pavements consisted of cobble stones, ranging from four inches in diameter to a foot, and, although these pavements for a time prevented the streets becoming deep with mud, they were uneven, and the stones did not remain in place for a long time because of the poor foundation; when the stones were out of place the pavements were horrible to drive over, and at best they were very noisy.

In 1823 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, James Hooker, Benjamin Ballou, Jr.; Daniel Stafford, Ezekiel Bacon, second ward; third ward, Thomas Walker, Jesse W. Doolittle.

In 1824 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, Benjamin Ballou, James Hooker; second ward, Ezekiel Bacon, James Lynch; third ward, Thomas Walker, Nicholas Smith.

In 1825 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, Benjamin Ballou, Riley Rogers; second ward, William H. Maynard, Charles Morris; third ward, Nicholas Smith, John R. Ludlow; William Clark was appointed president.

During the year 1825 the Erie Canal was completed, and a great celebration occurred in the city in honor of that event. It was also in this year that General LaFayette paid a visit to this country, and was received with great demonstrations wherever he appeared. The reception of LaFayette in Utica was in June, and Judge Nathan Williams was chairman of the committee of reception.

In 1826 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, John E. Hinman, Riley Rogers; second ward, Abram E. Culver, Amos Gay; third ward, Nicholas Smith, John R. Ludlow. Ezra S. Cozier was appointed president of the board. It is stated that the clerk of the board had up to that year acted without salary. It was that by resolution of the board he was to receive \$50 per year for his services.

In 1827 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, John H. Ostrom, Au-

gustus G. Dauby; second ward, Abram E. Culver, Thomas Colling; third ward, Amos Gay, Chester Griswold; fourth ward, Augustus Hurlburt, Nicholas Devereux; the president appointed by the governor was Ezra S. Cozier. An attorney for the village was appointed for the first time during this year.

In 1828 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, John Ostrom and James Platt; second ward, Abraham Culver, Thomas Colling; third ward, Chester Griswold, Augustus Hurlburt; fourth ward, Nicholas Devereux, Robert R. Lansing. William Clark was appointed by the governor as president of the board.

In 1829 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, John Williams, Rutger B. Miller; second ward, Abraham E. Culver, Thomas Colling; third ward, Andrew S. Pond, Sylvester Doolittle; fourth ward, Robert McBride, Asahel Seward. The president of the board was William Clark. The clerk and village attorney was John G. Floyd.

In 1830 the board of trustees consisted of: first ward, John Williams, Chester Griswold; second ward, Thomas Colling, Rudolph Snyder; third ward, Sylvester Doolittle, A. S. Pond; fourth ward, Robert McBride, Rutger B. Miller. The other important officers remained substantially as in the previous year.

The last village election ever held was that of the year 1831, and the board of trustees consisted of E. S. Comstock, John Williams, first ward; second ward, Thomas Colling, Theodore S. Faxton; third ward, A. S. Pond, Sylvester Doolittle; fourth ward, Robert McBride, Rutger B. Miller. The other important officers of the village were substantially the same as in the year previous.

There are no means of ascertaining to what extent politics entered into the election of village officers—whether the two great parties divided and made separate nominations, or whether the citizens, as such, and irrespective of party, elected the village officers. From the character of the men who filled these places in early days it would seem as though the very best element in the community took charge of public affairs, and this being the case, unquestionably the best interests of the inhabitants were subserved, and the village, from its first incorporation until it became a city, was well governed.

The village of Utica was merged into the city of Utica by act of February 13, 1832, known as chapter 19 of the laws of that year, and entitled "An act to incorporate the city of Utica." The territory included within the limits of the city at that time is described in the charter as follows: Beginning at a point on the south side of the Mohawk river, where the division line between lots number 99 and 100 in Cosby's Manor strikes said river; thence running southerly in the said division line, to a point 50 chains southerly of the great road leading to Fort Stanwix; thence south 53 degrees east, to the easterly line of the county of Oneida; thence northerly in the said county line to the Mohawk river; thence westerly up the middle of said river to the place of beginning. Section 3 divided the city into four wards, as follows: That part which lies easterly of the middle of Genesee street and northerly of the center of the Erie canal, shall be the first ward: That part which lies westerly of the middle of Genesee street and northerly of the center of the said canal, shall be the second ward: That part which lies westerly of the middle of Genesee street, and southerly of the center of the said canal, shall be the third ward:

And that part which lies easterly of the middle of Genesee street, and southerly of the center of said canal, shall be the fourth ward. It was provided by the charter that there should be a mayor, twelve aldermen, that is, three from each ward, four justices of the peace, one clerk, one surveyor, one treasurer, one or more collectors, four assessors, three constables, and such other officers as should be provided for thereafter. The common council was authorized to appoint three persons, residents of the respective wards, as inspectors of election. It was also provided that the trustees of the village of Utica, or such persons as they should appoint, should be inspectors of the first election. The common council was to consist of the mayor and the aldermen, and the mayor was to preside at the meetings of that body. By the 38th, 39th and 40th sections the common council was given general authority over the city's affairs. From time to time this charter was amended, until it became one of the most troublesome pieces of patchwork that ever existed for the government of a city. Although the municipality thrived under a very poor charter, it was a relief when the population of the city was such that under the general statutes of the state Utica became a city of the second-class, which occurred in the year 1907.

Records have not been attainable to show the elections from the time of the organization of the city down to 1842. It appears that after the incorporation of the city the lines were more sharply drawn between the political parties than before that date, and Whig and Democrat became the dividing line.

Joseph Kirkland was the first mayor in 1832; Henry Seymour was the second, in 1833; Joseph Kirkland in 1834-35; John H. Ostrom in 1836; Charles P. Kirkland in 1838; John C. Devereux in 1839-40, and Spencer Kellogg in 1841. From this time to the close of 1911 we are able to give the vote at every election of mayor in the city of Utica.

It would seem that party spirit induced the two great parties to nominate a candidate for mayor at every election, except on certain occasions, when the citizens put forth their efforts to control the election, and were at times successful. There is nothing of general interest in regard to the elections except in a few instances, but it is noteworthy that the parties were so evenly divided both sides could go into a contest with assurances of victory, and the control of the city shifted from one party to the other quite frequently. On one occasion, in 1859, the candidates were John C. Hoyt, Republican, and Charles S. Wilson, Democrat. Mr. Hoyt was born in Utica, his father being one of the early settlers, was a man of high standing, and commanded the support of his party. Mr. Wilson was cashier of the city bank, a Scotchman by birth, an active politician, and was frequently a candidate for the office of mayor. The result of the election was a tie, and Roscoe Conkling, who had been elected in 1858, held over, but before the year 1859 expired he resigned, and the common council appointed Charles S. Wilson mayor.

During the civil war, when party spirit ran high, the Republicans (or Unionists, as they were then called), succeeded in electing Theodore S. Faxon in 1864, John Butterfield in 1865, and James McQuade in 1866.

After the war the city became more Democratic, and the candidate of that party usually was successful in the election for several years. The first Re-





ONEIDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
Completed in 1908, located at Utica, New York





publican to be elected after the war was Theodore F. Butterfield, who succeeded against Charles K. Grannis in 1872. Theodore S. Sayre also defeated Miles C. Comstock in 1874. The next Republican to be successful was David H. Gaffin in 1877. A three-cornered fight occurred in 1878, and James Benton was elected by a plurality over Theodore F. Butterfield, Republican, and Charles E. Barnard, Democrat. Mr. Benton, who was a prominent builder and contractor, was nominated by the Workingmen. A lively canvass was made, and, although Mr. Benton was a rich man, being one of the largest owners of real estate in the city, he commanded the respect of the workingmen and they supported him generally, no matter to what party they belonged.

The Democrats were successful afterward until 1881, when James Miller, Republican, defeated J. Thomas Spriggs, Democrat, by less than 100 majority.

In 1882 three tickets were again in the field. The citizens' ticket was headed by Francis M. Burdick, who was a lawyer, and who, at the present time, is dean of the Law department of Columbia College in New York city. He was a Democrat in politics, but a conservative man of high character. The Republicans nominated Isaac P. Bielby, and the Democrats nominated Charles A. Doolittle. Mr. Burdick was supported generally by the Republicans, and was elected by something over 200 plurality.

In 1883 ex-Mayor James Miller was again nominated by the Republicans, and Charles A. Doolittle by the Democrats. Mr. Miller had been a soldier in the civil war, had once been elected mayor, but in this contest he was defeated by Mr. Doolittle, who was a son of Judge Charles H. Doolittle, a lawyer by profession, but who never practiced at the bar, as it was distasteful to him in consequence of a lack of robust health to endure the rough and tumble of that profession.

In 1884 the Republicans nominated James S. Sherman and the Democrats LeRoy H. Shattuck. Mr. Shattuck was a business man of good standing, but he did not have the backing of his own party at this election. Mr. Sherman, now Vice President of the United States, was a young attorney, active in politics, and, having ability and character, as subsequent developments showed, entered into the contest with great vigor, and succeeded in carrying the city by a very large majority. This was Mr. Sherman's entry into politics. It is scarcely necessary to say that since that time he has given his life to the public, and the record which he has made seems to justify his choice.

In 1885 there were again three tickets in the field. John L. Earll was nominated by the Republicans, Patrick F. Quinlan by the Democrats, and Thomas E. Kinney by the Citizens. Although Mr. Earll was a man of great culture and excellent standing in the community, he could not command the support of the Republican party, a large portion of that party supporting Mr. Kinney, and, with the Democratic vote which Mr. Kinney received, he was elected by a substantial plurality. At the election of 1886 Mr. Kinney was nominated by the Democrats and elected over James Miller. Mr. Kinney was again elected in 1887 virtually without opposition.

In 1890 there were three tickets again in the field. Willard D. Ball was nominated by the Republicans, Alexander T. Goodwin by the Democrats, and Thomas W. Spencer by what was known as the People's party. Mr. Goodwin

received a plurality of votes at this election. He was elected for two years instead of one, because of an amendment to the statute extending the term, but in 1892 the term of office was again changed to one year. In that year Thomas Wheeler was the Republican candidate, and Nicholas E. Kernan was nominated by the Democrats. Mr. Wheeler had been a soldier in the civil war, and was a coal dealer at this time. Mr. Kernan was a member of the law firm of Kernan & Kernan, and was also engaged in manufacturing, being connected with several of the large industries in the city. Mr. Wheeler was elected by a substantial majority.

In 1893 the term of office was changed to two years. Thomas Wheeler was the Republican candidate, and John G. Gibson, who was a practicing attorney of high standing, was nominated by the Democrats and elected.

It is a remarkable fact that some of the candidates for mayor were nominated at one time by one party, and at another time by another party, but no one seems to have been more fortunate in his political aspirations than Thomas E. Kinney, who was twice elected by the Democrats, once elected without opposition, and in 1897 he was nominated and elected by the Republicans against John G. Gibson, Democrat.

From 1897 down to 1907 the Democrats were uniformly successful in electing the mayor, but Thomas Wheeler was again nominated by the Republicans in 1907, and Thomas S. Jones was nominated by the Democrats. Mr. Jones was a prominent lawyer, had twice been district attorney of the county and was head of the law firm of Jones, Townsend & Rudd. The canvass was a very exciting one, and resulted in the selection of Mr. Wheeler by a substantial majority.

In 1909 Mr. Wheeler was renominated, but was defeated by Frederick E. Gillmore, Democrat.

The year 1911 was rather a peculiar one in the politics of Oneida county. The county had given a Democratic majority for governor because of the controversy between Vice President Sherman and ex-President Theodore Roosevelt. The Republican party was rent asunder, and it required some time to heal the wounds of the battles, but in 1911 the party was so far reconciled that a city ticket was substantially agreed upon before the convention was held, and was carried through by a unanimous vote of the convention. The Republican candidate for mayor was Frank J. Baker, who was at the time president of the common council; had been an alderman; was a florist and held a prominent place among the business men of the city. The Democratic convention was made up to renominate Mayor Gillmore, but he refused to be considered as a candidate, and gave them to understand that if nominated he would not accept. This resulted in the nomination of James D. Smith.

The political canvass in the city of Utica for mayor was an enthusiastic one, because of the popularity of Mr. Baker, the Republican candidate. The Democratic organization made a determined fight for its candidate, James D. Smith, but it was absolutely outranked, and the result was an unusual victory for the Republican party. For the first time in many years the Republicans succeeded in electing their mayor and a majority of the common council. Mr. Baker was elected by a plurality of 354. The result upon the other candidates in the

city was the election of Clarence Stetson, Rep., president of the common council, by a plurality of 154 over Curtis F. Alliaume; Fred G. Reusswig, Rep., comptroller, by a plurality of 260 over John H. Newman; James J. Devereux, Dem., city treasurer, by a plurality of 618 over Robert O. Morris; James K. O'Connor, Ind. Dem., city judge, by a plurality of about 2,337 over John T. Buckley, Rep., and a plurality of 2,736 over John F. Gaffney, Dem., Christian Bodmer, Rep., assessor, by a plurality of 350 over Frank Andes; T. William Arthur, assessor, by a plurality of 723 over Henry Lanz; Joseph Hopkins, Dem., justice of the peace, by a plurality of 54 over Benjamin F. Roberts; Leon L. Arthur, Rep., justice of the peace, by a plurality of 383 over Woodward Guile.

## VOTE ON MAYORS OF UTICA

	1842		1843		1844		1845		1846			
Wards	Spencer Kellogg (Whig)	Horatio Seymour (Loco)	Fred Hollister (Whig)	Horatio Seymour (Loco)	Fred. Hollister (Whig)	Ward Hunt (Loco)	Edmund A. Wetmore (Whig)	J. W. Williams (Loco)	Edmund A. Wetmore (Whig)	A. Munson (b. b. L.)	T. H. Hubbard (a. b. L.)	A. Stewart (Ab.)
1 .....	113	142	142	172	166	180	139	183	107	49	106	5
2 .....	143	138	190	127	193	114	175	118	164	43	77	14
3 .....	198	185	248	227	241	231	285	234	274	91	99	18
4 .....	191	310	285	323	291	387	312	366	298	147	216	32
Total ...	645	775	865	849	891	912	911	901	843	330	498	69

	1847			1848		1849			1850		1851	
Wards	William B. Welles (Whig)	J. Watson Williams (Loco)	Alvan Stewart (Temp.)	Joshua A. Spencer (Whig)	Geo. Curtis (Loco)	Thomas R. Walker (Whig)	Francis Kernan (Free Soller)	John Baxter (Loco)	Thomas R. Walker (Whig)	Ezra R. Barnum (Dem.)	John Bryan (Whig)	John C. Hinman (Loco)
1 .....	95	160	35	148	84	152	40	117	170	132	163	147
2 .....	126	126	43	185	95	154	49	81	201	120	92	244
3 .....	199	179	161	360	207	322	80	167	216	149	119	283
4 .....	179	346	176	382	394	344	174	255	282	231	207	348
5 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	208	164	242
6 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	155	130	114	207
Total .....	599	811	415	1,075	780	972	343	620	1,174	970	859	1,471



## HISTORY OF ONEIDA COUNTY

	1852		1853		1854		1855		1856		
Wards	John C. Hinman (Dem.)	William J. Bacon (Whig.)	Joseph Benedict (Whig)	Chas. H. Doolittle (Dem.)	David Wager (Dem.)	John Butterfield (Whig)	John E. Hinman (Coalition)	Henry H. Fish (Whig)	John E. Hinman (Dem.)	John E. Hinman (Dem.)	Alrick Hubbell (Whig)
1	165	114	12	152	98	138	64	193	64	100	174
2	181	167	185	154	60	33	153	211	178	223	146
3	195	217	227	184	56	195	182	306	163	216	211
4	320	253	307	258	58	229	305	445	194	259	332
5	265	183	207	289	180	141	246	389	223	259	421
6	218	141	81	206	17	153	262	204	309	270	204
Total	1,344	1,075	1,019	1,243	469	989	1,212	1,748	1,122	1,327	1,488

	1857		1858		1859		1860		1861		1862	
Wards	Alrick Hubbell (Rep.)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	Roscoe Conkling (Rep.)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	John C. Hoyt (Rep.)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	Calvin Hall (Rep.)	LeWitt C. Grovo (Dem.)	Alrick Hubbell (Rep.)	DeWitt C. Grovo (Dem.)	Ellis H. Roberts (Rep.)	DeWitt C. Grovo (Dem.)
1	162	102	150	116	119	157	141	133	129	132	106	180
2	237	164	258	174	249	210	207	217	226	274	231	286
3	346	160	362	177	334	179	335	205	307	220	334	235
4	362	208	409	211	326	272	393	226	356	256	376	292
5	182	249	130	351	145	330	148	332	209	323	145	380
6	221	295	303	270	278	412	258	429	323	430	295	457
7	225	200	253	202	288	179	345	198	307	244	318	282
Total	1,735	1,378	1,865	1,501	1,739	1,739	1,827	1,740	1,857	1,879	1,805	2,112

	1863		1864		1865		1866		1867		1868	
Wards	Adrian Klasm (Rep.)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	Theodore S. Faxon (Unionist)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	John Butterfield (Unionist)	E. Chamberlain (Dem.)	James McQuado (Unionist)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	Enos D. Wood (Unionist)	Charles S. Wilson (Dem.)	Alrick Hubbell (Unionist)	J. Thomas Spriggs (Dem.)
1 .....	87	192	81	183	95	160	149	139	104	190	85	171
2 .....	214	309	267	279	273	261	230	274	257	330	199	381
3 .....	291	251	397	210	336	233	334	200	377	301	392	335
4 .....	364	276	413	255	432	218	322	234	426	261	409	254
5 .....	117	410	173	370	190	349	227	333	174	467	189	435
6 .....	238	479	317	418	291	427	296	439	355	460	318	505
7 .....	281	281	369	252	307	261	348	272	421	273	344	342
Total ...	1,592	2,198	2,017	1,967	1,924	1,909	1,906	1,891	2,114	2,282	1,936	2,423



PRESIDENTS AND MAYORS OF UTICA, 1798-1911



	1869	1870	1871	1872	1873	1874						
Wards	John Dagwell (Rep.)	E. Chamberlain (Dem.)	T. F. Butterfield (Rep.)	James McQuade (Dem.)	Addison C. Miller (Rep.)	Miles C. Comstock (Dem.)	T. F. Butterfield (Rep.)	Charles K. Grannis (Dem.)	Michael McQuade (Rep.)	Charles K. Grannis (Dem.)	T. S. Sayre (Rep.)	Miles C. Comstock (Dem.)
1	79	202	107	176	125	190	161	114	133	100	92	203
2	177	354	250	321	244	351	276	339	101	422	210	353
3	390	363	484	240	469	316	499	275	106	450	614	257
4	391	297	460	227	493	279	397	152	112	208	364	177
5	146	495	121	309	135	362	157	213	107	160	70	179
6	284	546	88	182	144	212	151	213	48	251	177	165
7	394	374	384	275	453	388	448	329	169	420	532	376
8	...	...	123	289	156	304	189	337	165	325	220	326
9	...	...	281	305	307	367	287	352	131	480	452	259
10	...	...	...	...	...	...	195	182	107	172	212	225

Total ... 1,861 2,631 2,298 2,324 2,526 2,769 2,660 2,516 1,179 2,988 2,943 2,520

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879						
Wards	Theodore S. Sayre (Rep.)	C. W. Hutchinson (Dem.)	T. F. Butterfield (Rep.)	Charles E. Barnard (Dem.)	David H. Gaffin (Rep.)	C. W. Hutchinson (Dem.)	T. F. Butterfield (Rep.)	James Benton (Workingmen's)	Charles E. Barnard (Dem.)	Robert S. Williams (Rep.)	John Buckley (Dem.)
1	62	169	130	158	147	124	104	41	103	85	163
2	233	365	249	390	356	230	246	233	235	180	472
3	538	340	405	474	540	301	219	486	227	507	405
4	354	216	300	234	353	178	220	266	90	359	244
5	51	202	97	198	75	177	67	125	130	49	252
6	159	198	127	200	156	198	58	155	178	111	252
7	503	494	582	485	599	449	303	718	225	500	621
8	149	391	262	384	263	292	245	306	144	233	502
9	391	329	343	450	408	381	140	505	186	253	515
10	210	222	197	230	207	201	161	185	114	197	240

Total ..... 2,650 2,926 2,690 3,203 3,104 2,531 1,763 3,020 1,634 2,473 3,666

	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884						
Wards	Daniel T. Everts (Rep.)	J. Thomas Spriggs (Dem.)	James Miller (Rep.)	J. Thomas Spriggs (Dem.)	Francis M. Burdick (Citizens')	Isaac P. Bielby (Rep.)	Charles A. Doolittle (Dem.)	James Miller (Rep.)	C. A. Doolittle (Dem.)	James S. Sherman (Rep.)	L. H. Shattuck (Dem.)
1	93	165	97	126	70	2	180	77	186	167	66
2	252	369	275	391	266	10	323	350	345	400	198
3	337	246	364	216	410	3	178	358	174	368	257
4	340	266	369	232	402	20	213	322	264	423	165



## HISTORY OF ONEIDA COUNTY

	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884
Wards	Daniel T. Everts (Rep.)	Thomas Spriggs (Dem.)	James Miller (Rep.)	James Miller (Rep.)	James S. Sherman (Rep.)
5	59	266	115	165	66
6	145	230	173	217	108
7	259	329	264	328	353
8	242	372	307	382	270
9	358	513	458	323	381
10	214	241	198	234	228
11	231	189	235	182	360
12	327	297	323	311	366
Total	2,857	3,483	3,198	3,107	3,280

	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889
Wards	John L. Earl (Rep.)	Patrick F. Quhan (Dem.)	Thomas E. Kinney (Citizens')	James Miller (Rep.)	Thomas E. Kinney (Dem.)
1	86	100	50	193	75
2	173	171	326	266	351
3	219	149	227	294	343
4	278	137	253	293	285
5	14	210	77	106	246
6	110	211	143	109	259
7	318	111	282	306	416
8	201	291	354	228	577
9	318	382	230	400	619
10	146	151	150	137	287
11	196	89	151	260	272
12	327	103	303	329	393
Total	2,386	2,105	2,546	2,927	4,123

	1890	1892	1893	1895	1897	1899
Wards	Willard D. Ball (Rep.)	A. T. Goodwin (Dem.)	Thomas W. Spencer (People's)	Thomas Wheeler (Rep.)	N. E. Kernan (Dem.)	Thomas Wheeler (Rep.)
1	89	180	42	192	109	181
2	173	491	62	457	374	440
3	267	355	97	472	290	409
4	279	248	127	352	333	366
Total	809	1,274	328	1,373	1,172	1,352

	1896	1897	1898	1899
Wards	John G. Gibson (Dem.)	John G. Gibson (Dem.)	William K. Harvey (Rep.)	Richard W. Sherman (Dem.)
1	134	163	158	122
2	328	509	311	432
3	312	418	447	380
4	338	324	394	255
Total	1,112	1,414	1,309	999

	1890			1892		1893		1895		1897		1899	
Wards	Willard D. Ball (Rep.)	A. T. Goodwin (Dem.)	Thomas W. Spencer (People's)	Thomas Wheeler (Rep.)	N. E. Kernan (Dem.)	Thomas Wheeler (Rep.)	John G. Gibson (Dem.)	John L. Earl (Rep.)	John G. Gibson (Dem.)	Thomas E. Kinney (Rep.)	John G. Gibson (Dem.)	William K. Harvey (Rep.)	Richard W. Sherman (Dem.)
5 . . . .	59	244	40	176	159	206	166	157	206	166	188	130	210
6 . . . .	99	250	83	299	174	256	271	184	269	222	278	242	262
7 . . . .	377	342	186	407	545	495	581	543	614	591	466	618	550
8 . . . .	314	682	219	727	679	673	885	708	988	553	738	603	842
9 . . . .	342	682	235	655	687	683	735	574	846	490	674	561	612
10 . . . .	228	194	74	227	302	249	252	231	321	251	290	208	302
11 . . . .	305	244	135	379	303	368	377	378	392	436	352	434	423
12 . . . .	526	310	172	599	490	624	556	579	583	414	397	435	371
13 . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	414	397	274	267
14 . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	214	189	267	201
15 . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	415	298	421	280

Total . 3,058 4,222 1,482 4,932 4,445 4,950 5,013 4,476 5,633 5,364 5,283 5,473 5,560

	1901		1903		1905		1907		1909	
Wards	Morris J. Davies (Rep.)	Charles A. Talcott (Dem.)	James Dwyer (Rep.)	Charles A. Talcott (Dem.)	George Beatty (Rep.)	Richard W. Sherman (Dem.)	Thomas Wheeler (Rep.)	Thomas S. Jones (Dem.)	Thomas Wheeler (Rep.)	Frederick Gilmore (Dem.)
1 . . . . .	62	217	53	221	82	185	117	165	121	114
2 . . . . .	385	394	261	546	430	407	430	481	356	505
3 . . . . .	434	338	387	486	497	346	562	306	457	351
4 . . . . .	320	344	273	378	387	310	441	277	366	348
5 . . . . .	170	217	174	230	223	247	216	196	191	256
6 . . . . .	248	268	183	369	214	328	259	329	234	374
7 . . . . .	566	724	478	876	776	691	866	692	776	717
8 . . . . .	601	946	696	1,038	742	1,090	1,071	973	783	1,272
9 . . . . .	512	705	377	899	585	717	699	656	614	725
10 . . . . .	206	354	188	400	274	366	342	279	245	340
11 . . . . .	446	441	466	534	436	504	527	470	509	511
12 . . . . .	397	450	325	592	506	456	600	453	534	520
13 . . . . .	308	300	301	326	352	312	444	343	413	429
14 . . . . .	242	243	221	332	311	281	352	303	328	400
15 . . . . .	441	329	325	440	474	337	606	289	427	414

Total . . . . 5,338 6,270 4,606 7,667 6,289 6,577 7,532 6,212 6,354 7,276

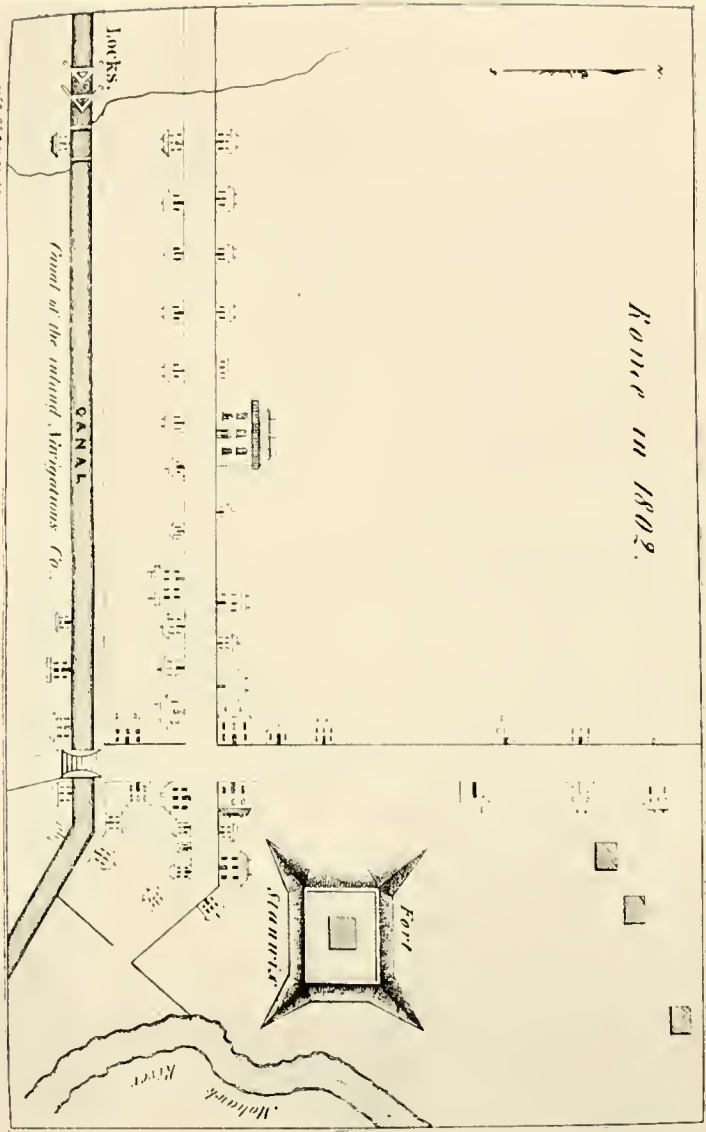
1911					
Wards	James D. Smith (Dem.)	Frank J. Tucker (Rep.)	Otto L. Endres (Soc.)	James D. Smith (Ind. League)	Frank J. Baker (Pro.)
1 .....	197	84	3	...	...
2 .....	524	329	30	...	...
3 .....	331	492	18	8	5
4 .....	279	366	11	4	3
5 .....	212	220	...	1	1
6 .....	313	252	21	2	5
7 .....	601	993	37	9	11
8 .....	1,258	752	54	12	9
9 .....	626	643	100	5	3
10 .....	314	311	11	4	3
11 .....	436	652	34	2	5
12 .....	545	549	15	5	5
13 .....	472	459	31	7	15
14 .....	324	427	61	2	3
15 .....	318	558	14	4	3
Total .....	6,750	7,097	440	65	72

## ROME

The village of Rome was incorporated in 1819, with the following boundaries, to-wit: "Commencing at the junction of the Erie canal with Wood creek, near the white house called the 'Clark house,' and thence down the canal to the west line of George house; thence on a line of said farm to a poplar tree south of the old canal; thence to the east corner of Fiero's barn; thence to the north corner of Jacob Tibbits's barn; thence north to the east corner of Bloomfield's garden; thence northward to Wood creek; thence down the creek to the place of beginning."

There seems to have been a local pride in having one of the largest incorporated villages in the state, rather than to be one of the smallest cities, which evidently deterred the citizens of Rome for some time in making application for a city charter; but, after its population had reached more than ten thousand, it was thought advisable to incorporate it as a city. The last census taken of the village of Rome was that of 1865, when it showed a population of 9,478. There was from that time onward a gradual but not rapid growth, as is shown by the census, which has been taken generally every five years. There does not seem to have been anything of great importance to record in regard to the village corporation between its organization and its being incorporated as a city. The important events which occurred in the territory known as the "town and village of Rome" are mostly recorded in other parts of this work. The present chapter has to do especially with the corporate life of the village and city.

# *Route in 1802.*







In 1853 the village was divided into three wards, the portion east of James street being the first ward; that west of James street and south of Liberty the second ward; that west of James and north of Liberty the third ward.

It appears from the history written by Mr. Wager that the trustees of the village from 1820 to 1834, inclusive, were the following persons, viz:

1820-21—George Huntington, Elijah Worthington, Stephen White, Elisha Walsworth, Numa Leonard.

1822—Same, except Wheeler Barnes was elected in the place of Stephen White.

1823—Wheeler Barnes, Joshua Hathaway, Simon Matteson, George Brown, Denis Davenport.

1824-25—Wheeler Barnes, Arden Seymour, Simon Matteson, George Brown, Numa Leonard.

1826—George Huntington, John W. Bloomfield, Jay Hathaway, Elisha Walsworth, Henry A. Foster.

1827—John W. Bloomfield, George Huntington, Henry A. Foster, Martin Galusha, Jay Hathaway.

1828—J. W. Bloomfield, Jay Hathaway, H. A. Foster, Seth B. Roberts, Arden Seymour.

1829—J. W. Bloomfield, Jay Hathaway, Seth B. Roberts, Francis Bicknell, Lyman Briggs.

1830—Alanson Bennett, Bela B. Hyde, Noah Draper, James Merrills, Sylvester Wilcox.

1831—Bela B. Hyde, Henry Tibbits, James Merrills, Sylvester Wilcox, Joseph B. Read.

1832—A. Bennett, Alva Whedon, James Merrills, Francis Bicknell, Jay Hathaway.

1833—No record.

1834—Jesse Armstrong, John Stryker, Alva Mudge, Samuel B. Stevens, Virgil Draper.

From 1835 to 1849, inclusive, the records of the village have been lost or misplaced, and it is impossible to give the trustees for those years. From 1850 to 1869 they were as follows:

1850—Edward Huntington, Oliver J. Grosvenor, Andrew J. Rowley, Stephen VanDresar, Henry C. Mallory.

1851-52—Enoch B. Armstrong, Roland S. Doty, Woodman Kimball, Sanford Adams, Marquis D. Hollister.

1853—President, Alanson Bennett. 1st ward, H. S. Armstrong, E. A. Gage, E. M. Hinkley; 2d ward, Stephen VanDresar, J. Lewis Grant, Publius V. Rogers; 3d ward, M. L. Kenyon. Zaccheus Hill, Henry Hayden.

1854—President, B. J. Beach. 1st ward, Gordon N. Bissell, James L. Watkins, A. McConne; 2d ward, J. L. Grant, M. Burns, Richard Peggs; 3d ward, James Walker, S. Seofil, C. P. Williams.

1855—President, Marquis L. Kenyon. 1st ward, Harrison Jacobs, E. A. Gage, Moses Wingate; 2d ward, Michael Burns, Henry T. Utley, Eri Seymour; 3d ward, R. G. Savery, J. H. Gilbert, M. L. Brainard.

1856—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, A. W. Cole, Joseph Higgins,

Robert Whitworth; 2d ward, H. H. Pope, J. J. Armstrong, John Ward; 3d ward, A. H. Edgerton, Edward Dickinson, John J. Parry.

1857—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, Henry O. Southworth, Robert Whitworth, Jacob P. Hager; 2d ward, John Ward, Thomas H. Pond, Daniel Hager; 3d ward, A. H. Edgerton, George W. Taft, Edward Smith.

1858—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, Henry O. Southworth, Paul Schneible, Robert Whitworth; 2d ward, John Ward, Daniel Hager, Glen Petrie; 3d ward, A. H. Edgerton, G. W. Taft, Edward Smith.

1859—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, Alva Mudge, H. C. Case, H. C. Mallory; 2d ward, H. H. Pope, John Ward, D. Hager; 3d ward, A. H. Edgerton, E. P. Wait, R. E. Lee.

1860—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, Charles F. Bissell, Henry C. Mallory, Nathaniel Hazelton; 2d ward, H. H. Pope, Adam Kochersperger, John O'Neil; 3d ward, Robinson E. Smiley, N. Hyde Leffingwell, Zacheus Hill.

1861—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, H. C. Mallory, Jason Rastizer, George Merrill; 2d ward, A. K. Adams, H. H. Pope, Peter Quinn; 3d ward, William J. Walker, Daniel Cady, Nicholas Moran.

1862—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, H. C. Mallory, M. W. Rowe, Peter Rothmund; 2d ward, H. H. Pope, A. K. Adams, Peter Quinn; 3d ward, Z. Hill, E. A. Allen, Jephtha Matteson.

1863—President, George Barnard. 1st ward, D. B. Prince, H. Edmonds, R. Whitworth; 2d ward, H. H. Pope, A. K. Adams, Thomas Flanagan; 3d ward, J. Matteson, Z. Hill, E. A. Allen.

1864—President, David Utley. 1st ward, M. Maloney, Martin Seger, Daniel L. Ketcham; 2d ward, John Harrington, John Spellicy, Peter Quinn; 3d ward, James Walker, John D. Ely, Harvey D. Spencer.

1865—President, E. B. Armstrong. 1st ward, Joseph Higgins, Orson Knowlton, James Elwell; 2d ward, John Reifert, John Hook, Thomas Flanagan; 3d ward, Samuel Wardwell, James Walker, G. H. Lynch.

1866—President, George Barnard, Jr. 1st ward, H. O. Southworth, Orson Knowlton, Joseph Higgins; 2d ward, John Reifert, John Hook, Thomas Flanagan; 3d ward, James Walker, Lewis Gaylord, Sylvester F. Tremain.

1867—President, James Stevens. 1st ward, Lawrence Gaheen, James Elwell, Peter Rothmund; 2d ward, Nicholas Kapfer, Thomas Flanagan, John Spellicy; 3d ward, Griffith W. Jones, Lewis Gaylord, William Jackson.

1868—President, James Stevens. 1st ward, Peter Rothmund, James H. Carroll, George H. Brodock; 2d ward, Henry W. Tibbits, Fred Rostizer, Thomas W. Edwards; 3d ward, William Jackson, Lewis Gaylord, B. W. Williams.

1869—President, Edward L. Stevens. 1st ward, James H. Carroll; 2d ward, John Spellicy; 3d ward, Ackley B. Tuller. A portion of the old board held over this year, according to the new regulations for the election of trustees.

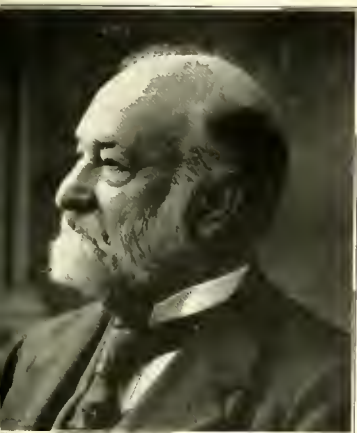
Rome was incorporated as a city by an act entitled "An Act to Incorporate the City of Rome," passed February 23, 1870. Municipal elections were held in the spring from 1870 to 1903, when the two great parties would present their respective candidates; and, as Rome has naturally been Democratic, the Democratic party has been in control most of the time since it received its city charter. The first Republican mayor elected in Rome was E. Stuart Williams, in 1891.



Calvert Comstock  
1870



Samuel B. Stevens  
1875



Edward L. Stevens  
1877



Edward Comstock  
1881-1885



James Stevens  
1887-1889



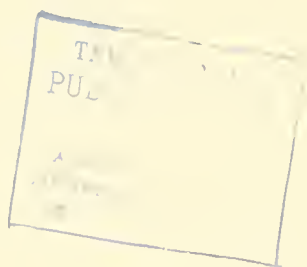
E. Stuart Williams  
1891



Samuel Gillette  
1893

MAYORS OF ROME





In 1895 Dr. W. J. P. Kingsley, Republican, was elected, and re-elected in 1897. Thomas G. Noek, Republican, was elected in 1903. In 1909 a curious political situation existed in Rome. Judge William E. Scripture had been renominated for justice of the Supreme Court by the Republicans, and it was desired that he should obtain as large a vote in Rome as possible. To that end an arrangement was made by which A. R. Kessinger, the then Democratic mayor, should be renominated by the Democrats and nominated by the Republicans, which was done, and Mr. Kessinger was of course, elected. In 1911 the Republican city convention nominated Stewart E. Townsend for mayor and Adolph F. Moldt for president of the common council. The Democrats nominated Leon V. Jones for mayor and Alfred L. Evenden for president of the common council. The Republican party was successful, Mr. Townsend receiving a plurality of 250 for mayor, and Mr. Moldt a majority of 125 for president of the common council.

## VOTES ON MAYORS OF ROME.

	1870		1873		1875		1877		1879		1881	
Wards	Calvert Constock (Dem.)	Edward Huntington (Rep.)	George Merrill (Dem.)	Alfred Ethridge (Rep.)	Samuel B. Stevens (Dem.)	W. J. P. Kingsley (Rep.)	Edward L. Stevens (Dem.)	Alfred Ethridge (Rep.)	George Barnard (Dem.)	E. Evans (Rep.)	Edward Constock (Dem.)	W. J. P. Kingsley (Rep.)
1 . . . . .	130	91	249	143	264	169	307	193	314	209	298	186
2 . . . . .	256	223	200	127	264	100	267	140	260	170	247	106
3 . . . . .	301	147	285	139	363	106	309	265	322	226	363	148
4 . . . . .	231	150	179	192	275	103	220	237	229	214	232	209
5 . . . . .	201	380	197	297	245	265	214	332	260	322	209	331
Total	1,209	991	1,110	898	1,411	743	1,317	1,167	1,385	1,146	1,349	980

	1883		1885		1887		1889		1891			
Wards	F. E. Mitchell (Dem.)	G. W. Jones (Rep.)	Edward Constock (Dem.)	G. W. G. Kinney (Rep.)	James Stevens (Dem.)	M. R. Jones (Pro.)	James Stevens (Dem.)	James C. Smith (Rep.)	R. M. Bingham (Pro.)	Geo. P. Russ (Dem.)	E. Stuart Williams (Rep.)	Z. R. Evans (Pro.)
1 . . . . .	262	129	364	182	369	43	430	250	19	366	358	23
2 . . . . .	236	113	325	116	360	7	317	158	6	166	301	11
3 . . . . .	336	109	398	167	349	26	490	115	11	271	361	14
4 . . . . .	282	152	279	198	272	32	284	268	28	201	378	16
5 . . . . .	210	252	213	336	184	119	180	361	31	164	496	21
Total	1,326	755	1,579	999	1,534	227	1,701	1,152	95	1,168	1,894	85

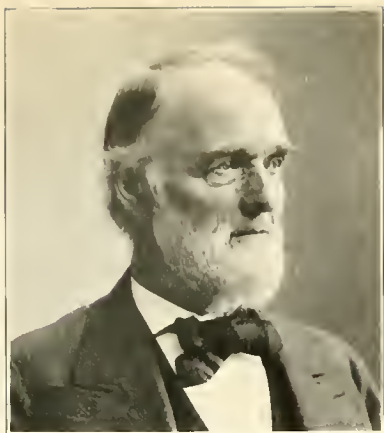
## HISTORY OF ONEIDA COUNTY

	1893			1895		1897			1899		1901		
Wards	Samuel Gillett (Dem.)	T. W. Shadeton (Rep.)	J. P. McHarg (Pro.)	Jerome Graves (Dem.)	W. J. P. Kingsley (Rep.)	D. P. Starlo (Dem.)	W. J. P. Kingsley (Rep.)	R. S. Fox (Pro.)	Almer S. White (Dem.)	W. L. Kingsley (Rep.)	H. Barnard Sr. (Dem.)	H. A. Caswell (Rep.)	A. L. Petty (Pro.)
1	351	286	19	286	379	340	357	23	417	424	394	387	29
2	306	128	9	168	286	229	213	8	273	220	262	157	56
3	399	176	12	256	306	295	272	11	437	291	321	277	54
4	287	264	14	230	328	243	328	16	322	306	255	362	37
5	267	380	25	225	428	222	471	33	355	422	251	495	37
	1,610	1,234	79	1,165	1,727	1,329	1,641	91	1,804	1,663	1,489	1,678	213

	1903			1905			1907					
Wards	P. H. Grogan (Dem.)	T. G. Nock (Rep.)	Chas. Ront (Pro.)	A. R. Keesinger (Dem.)	Thos. G. Nock (Rep.)	Martin Woodell (Soc. Dem.)	Richard A. Putnam (Pro.)	A. R. Keesinger (Dem.)	C. R. Edwards (Rep.)	Thos. P. Scully (Ind. League)	Martin Woodell (Soc.)	H. A. Putnam (Pro.)
1	416	444	11	237	141	13	8	188	145	23	5	4
2	306	210	2	341	196	22	3	243	173	26	9	8
3	359	307	7	348	290	27	12	361	256	16	11	11
4	301	355	20	348	311	15	20	344	305	29	11	19
5	304	570	12	178	247	11	13	206	222	40	2	20
6	...	...	..	189	238	11	7	201	193	21	5	8
7	...	...	..	223	181	30	10	289	169	25	4	14
Total	1,689	1,886	52	1,764	1,604	129	61	1,832	1,463	180	47	84

	1909				1911			
Wards	A. R. Keesinger (Dem.)	A. R. Keesinger (Rep.)	Martin Woodell (Soc.)	Dean S. Bedford (Pro.)	Leon V. Jones (Dem.)	S. E. Townsend (Rep.)	T. B. Metcalf (Soc.)	S. E. Townsend (Ind. League)
1	157	109	6	73	164	161	15	4
2	167	180	6	20	225	211	19	2
3	282	256	12	104	366	289	29	.
4	192	244	32	247	328	413	36	2
5	146	218	6	196	192	377	10	3
6	130	229	11	124	196	280	11	1
7	195	189	12	99	260	230	13	3
Total	1,269	1,425	99	911	1,731	1,961	133	15

Town Officers—From time to time the officers of the towns have been changed, but all of the laws which preceded the consolidated laws of 1909 have been



Dr. W. J. P. Kingsley  
1895-1897



Abner S. White  
1899



Hedding A. Caswell  
1901



A. R. Kessinger  
1905-1907-1909



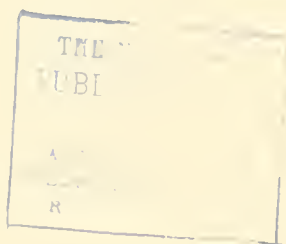
Thomas G. Nock  
1903



Stewart E. Townsend  
1911

MAYORS OF ROME





repealed or superseded by this act. This is the town law of the consolidated laws and is known as chapter 63 of the laws of 1909, and is chapter 62 of the consolidated laws, as enacted in that year. The town officers are now elected biennially, and they consist of supervisor, town clerk, two justices of the peace, three assessors, one clerk, one or two overseers of the poor, not more than five constables, and one superintendent of highways. There are some provisions for an increase of officers in the large towns. It is also provided in the consolidated act that at any election for the raising of money by tax or assessment women who are taxed have the right to vote.

Villages—Chapter 64 of the consolidated law provides for the creation and control of villages. The requirement is that the territory shall not exceed one square mile, and that there shall be not less than 200 inhabitants. Villages are divided into four classes by article 3, section 40, of the act, as follows: First, those with 5,000 or more population; second, 3,000 and less than 5,000 population; third, 1,000 and less than 3,000 population; fourth, less than 1,000 population. The officers of villages are president, treasurer, clerk and two trustees. It is also provided that in large villages trustees may be elected by wards. Many of the villages of the state have been organized by special charters, and this is true of some in this county. Under this general provision of the consolidated laws any village incorporated by special charter may re-incorporate under the general law, as provided in article 13 section 300. As a general proposition it is much better to be incorporated under the general statute than under any private act. One reason for this is that all the villages are controlled by the same officials and in the same manner, whereas, under special charters powers of officers might be very different, and a decision of the court in one case would not be conclusive on the same questions arising under different charters.

The incorporated villages within the county at the end of 1911 are as follows:

Oriskany Falls .....	Town of Augusta
Boonville .....	Town of Boonville
Bridgewater .....	Town of Bridgewater
Camden .....	Town of Camden
Forestport .....	Town of Forestport
Clinton .....	Town of Kirkland
Waterville .....	Partly in Sangerfield and partly in Marshall
New Hartford .....	Town of New Hartford
Clayville .....	Town of Paris
Remsen .....	Town of Remsen and Trenton
Trenton .....	Town of Trenton
Holland Patent .....	Town of Trenton
Prospect .....	Town of Trenton
Vernon .....	Town of Vernon
Oneida Castle .....	Town of Vernon
New London .....	Town of Verona
Sylvan Beach .....	Town of Vienna
Whitesboro .....	Town of Whitestown
Yorkville .....	Town of Whitestown

## CHAPTER XXI

### COURTS, BENCH AND BAR

During the early history of the state of New York no locality in the state contributed more, according to its population, than did Oneida county in furnishing able and conscientious men for high official positions. These men were among the foremost in framing the constitution and statutes of the state, and, through the courts, in laying down those fundamental rules of law that have since been a guide to courts, legislators and lawyers.

The county of Oneida was erected by an act passed March 15, 1798, by which act provision was made for holding courts in the county and for the erection of a court house and jail. The first court of record held within what is now Oneida county convened at the "Meeting House" in the town of Whitestown on the third Tuesday in January, 1794. Henry Staring was judge, and Jedediah Sanger and Amos Wetmore justices. The meeting house referred to was the Presbyterian church at New Hartford village. This was the only meeting house then existing within the county, and the village of New Hartford was then within the town of Whitestown.

Soon after the formation of the county in 1798, Jedediah Sanger, Hugh White, James Dean, David Ostrom and George Huntington were commissioned judges, and Amos Wetmore, Thomas Casety, Garret Boon, Adrian F. Vander-Kemp, Elizur Moseley, Henry McNeil, Peter Colt and Needham Maynard assistant justices. John Lansing, Jr., chief justice, held the first circuit court in Oneida county at Fort Stanwix (Rome) on the second Tuesday in September, 1798. James Kent, afterwards author of "Kent's Commentaries," a justice of the Supreme Court, held the first court of Oyer and Terminer at Rome, June 5, 1798. The first court of common pleas was held by Judges Sanger, Huntington and Ostrom. At this term attorneys, who had been admitted to the bar in Herkimer county, were admitted to practice in Oneida county courts. They were: Thomas R. Gold, Joseph Kirkland, Arthur Breese, Erastus Clark, Joshua Hathaway, Jacob Griswold, Nathan Williams, Francis A. Bloodgood, Jonas Platt, Rufus Easton and Medal Curtis.

From about 1802 sessions of the United States District Court have been held in Utica, and the United States Circuit Court has held stated sessions here since July, 1851.

The Supreme Court of Judicatory held sessions in Utica during its entire existence. A lawyer attending one of these sessions in 1820, in describing the court, mentions the eminent personages who were present. He says: "Chief Justice Spencer presided, with Judges VanNess, Platt, Yates and Woolworth

as associates. Among the eminent counsel present were Aaron Burr, Thomas J. Oakley, Martin Van Buren and Elisha Williams."

By statute, provision for a court house was made to be built in Rome, to be located within one mile of the fort—Stanwix—and in 1800 Dominick Lynch donated a site for the court house and jail. The buildings were constructed on the site donated, and their location has never been changed. Hugh White donated the site for the same county buildings at Whitesboro in the year 1801. The jail at Whitesboro was completed before that at Rome, and also before the court house at Whitesboro, and the first session of the court of common pleas was held in a schoolhouse at Whitesboro in May, 1802. When the jail at Whitesboro was completed the court ordered all Oneida county prisoners confined in the Herkimer jail transferred to Whitesboro. The Whitesboro court house is still standing, and is used as a town and village hall. The first court house built at Rome was burned in 1847, but was immediately rebuilt, and was enlarged in 1897, and again in 1902-3. In 1806 an act was passed authorizing courts to be held alternately in Rome and Whitesboro. This arrangement continued until Utica had so far outstripped Whitesboro in population that it was more convenient for litigants to come to Utica than to Whitesboro, and provision was made for the holding of courts in Utica instead of Whitesboro.

In 1813 the regents of the university granted a charter for an academy in Utica, and it was proposed by certain residents of Utica to erect a building for the purposes of an academy, a court house and a public hall. A portion of the money for the building was raised by subscription, and John R. Bleecker and Charles E. Dudley gave "two village lots valued at five hundred dollars for the site." The building was erected on the site donated on the westerly side of Chancellor square. In 1851 a new court house was built on John street directly in the rear of the old one, and a new academy was built by the city on the lot formerly occupied by the old academy and court house. The John street court house was rebuilt about 1868, and was used by the county until a public demand was made for better accommodations. The increase of population and of industries caused a large increase of business in all the county offices; moreover, the county clerk's office was located on Genesee street, a long distance from the court house, was totally inadequate to the wants of the county, and was not a fireproof building, and it was realized that the valuable records of the county were liable to be destroyed should a fire occur in the building. This subject was taken up by the Utica chamber of commerce, and a resolution was adopted providing for the appointment of a committee to present the subject to the board of supervisors. The committee consisted of Henry J. Cookinham, Josiah Perry and Smith M. Lindsley. The committee performed its duty, and the board of supervisors, in the winter of 1901, took steps looking to the building of a new court house, and a resolution was passed appointing a committee to proceed with the work. Just at this time, and principally through the influence of Hon. John C. Davies, then attorney general of the state, a special act of the legislature was passed creating a board of commissioners for the erection of a new court house in Utica. This commission consisted of seven Republicans and seven Democrats, seven commissioners being lawyers, and seven being business men. Their names were Henry J. Cookinham, W. Stuart Walcott, Edwin H.



Risley, Josiah Perry, VanRensselaer Weaver, Frederick T. Proctor, Alfred H. Munson, Albert R. Kessinger, James P. Olney, Henry W. Bentley, Byron A. Curtis, Leslie W. Kernan, Smith M. Lindsley and George E. Norton. Mr. Walcott declined to serve, and William G. Mayer was elected in his place; Leslie W. Kernan died, and Thomas S. Jones was elected in his place; Henry W. Bentley, who had acted as chairman of the commission up to the time of his death, also died, and Henry B. Belknap was elected a commissioner in his place, and Henry J. Cookinham was elected chairman. Sylvester Dering was the efficient clerk of the Commission. The board of supervisors, which, by general statute had the power to erect a court house, opposed the commission and refused to issue bonds of the county to furnish money for the building as the special act required. The Court of Appeals sustained the commission in a proceeding to compel the supervisors to issue the bonds, and, after a bitter legal fight, the work proceeded and the building was completed in 1909. The court house is located between Mary, Charlotte and Elizabeth streets, and with the lot and the furnishings cost nearly a million dollars. The plan was procured in the following manner. The commission selected fourteen different architects to prepare plans to be submitted to the board under fictitious names. These plans were first to be submitted to Prof. Ware, who was at the head of the department of architecture in Columbia University. He was to examine them and give his opinion as to their respective merits, and then the commission was to make the selection. After a most careful examination, lasting about three weeks, the commission voted unanimously in favor of No. 9. When the small envelope which contained the true name of the architect was opened, the name was found to be "Cutter, Turner & Ward" of Boston. The building was constructed according to the general plan submitted, but some changes were made, regretfully, by the commission, because they had not sufficient money to carry out every detail as planned. It is one of the most convenient and beautiful court houses in the entire country. The first session of the Supreme Court was opened in this building by Justice Irving R. Devendorf on the 21st day of September, 1908, before the building was entirely completed.

For several years prior to 1875 an effort had been made by the lawyers of the county to induce the legislature to establish a Supreme Court library in Utica, but the effort had not resulted in success. In 1875 Richard U. Sherman was the member of assembly from the first district, and was also a member of the committee of ways and means. In that position he was able to have inserted in the supply bill an appropriation of \$2,000 for the purpose of establishing a law library in Oneida county, on condition that the board of supervisors of the county would appropriate a like sum for the same purpose, or that the members of the bar of the county would raise a like sum. The supervisors refused to do anything in that direction, and the required amount was raised by subscription among the lawyers of the county. The Utica law library association was incorporated December 19, 1876, and is still in existence; it has charge of the purchasing of books for the library, which, at the present time, contains between 16,000 and 17,000 volumes. The officers of this association since its organization have been as follows:



COURTHOUSE AT ROME AFTER IT WAS REBUILT



COURTHOUSE AT ROME BEFORE IT WAS REBUILT



## PRESIDENTS

Henry J. Cookinham .....	1876-79
Charles D. Adams .....	1879-80
William Kernan .....	1880-83
George M. Weaver .....	1883-85
E. A. Graham .....	1885-89
P. C. J. DeAngelis .....	1889-08
William E. Mackie .....	1908-11

## SECRETARIES

Alfred C. Coxe .....	1876-79
Smith M. Lindsley .....	1879-80
P. C. J. DeAngelis .....	1880-84
John G. Gibson .....	1884-89
Robert O. Jones .....	1889-91
Charles A. Talcott .....	1891-95
Julius A. T. Doolittle .....	1895-1900
T. Harvey Ferris .....	1900-06
James H. Merwin .....	1906-11

On January 26, 1872, a special act of the legislature was passed organizing "The Association of the Bar of Oneida County." The charter members were the leaders of the bar, Horatio Seymour, Roscoe Conkling, Francis Kernan, Charles H. Doolittle, Arthur M. Beardsley and others. A meeting of the charter members was held soon after the organization and a constitution was adopted, and, so far as any record shows, that was the last meeting ever held. Why the organization died so untimely a death cannot be ascertained at this time.

The Oneida County Bar Association was organized and called its first meeting February 17, 1906. This association has done something to elevate the standard of members of the bar, and each year it has held an annual banquet, at which eminent judges and lawyers have responded to appropriate toasts, and these social gatherings have been most enjoyable to members of the association. The officers from the time of its organization down to 1912 have been as follows:

## PRESIDENTS

Milton H. Merwin, from February 17, 1906, to December, 1907.

William Kernan, from December, 1907, to December, 1908.

Smith M. Lindsley, from 1908 to the time of his death which occurred May 17, 1909.

Thomas S. Jones, for the remainder of the term of Mr. Lindsley, and also from December 1909 to 1911.

William K. Harvey has been secretary of the association from its organization to date.

## TREASURERS

John S. Baker, from February, 1906, to December, 1909.

Ward J. Cagwin, from December, 1909 to date.

There are 126 members of the association at this time.



To give an account of the many interesting and important trials, both civil and criminal, which have occurred within the county, would extend this paper beyond reasonable bounds. A few of these trials would furnish material for a book, and it is difficult to select any of the civil cases that are of such paramount importance above others as to warrant even a short account of them. There have been, however, criminal cases of such character as to be of interest to the public.

The first capital case tried in Oneida county was that of Sylvia Wood. She was indicted for the murder of her husband, was convicted and sentenced to be hanged, but committed suicide the night before the day set for her execution.

The first execution for murder in the county was that of John Tuhi, an Indian, who was convicted of the murder of his cousin, Joseph Tuhi. This execution occurred July 25, 1817.

In 1824, the court of oyer and terminer was held in the building in Utica used for a court house and academy, and the first important criminal trial which took place was that of a boy, Irad Morse. He was indicted for murder, having shot his companion while hunting. Samuel R. Betts, circuit judge, presided, and Samuel Beardsley was district attorney. The boy was convicted, but the sentence was commuted to imprisonment for life.

One of the most, if not the most important criminal trial which ever occurred in the United States was that of Alexander McLeod. He was indicted for the murder of Amos Duffree, who was killed by a pistol shot December 30, 1837, the night of the burning of the steamer *Caroline*, and sending her over Niagara Falls. The trial of McLeod took place at Utica in October, 1841. Judge Philo Gridley presided, and Willis Hall, attorney general of the state, assisted John L. Wood, district attorney of Erie county, and Timothy Jenkins, district attorney of Oneida county, in prosecuting the criminal. The prisoner was defended by Gardner & Bradley, with Joshua A. Spencer as counsel. McLeod was a British subject, and, after his indictment, the British government demanded his release. Our government, Daniel Webster being then secretary of state, was favorable to granting the request, but William H. Seward, governor of New York, refused to deliver up the prisoner. A serious international controversy arose and war was threatened. The federal government, in reality, took charge of the defense of McLeod, backed by Great Britain, that government having appropriated twenty thousand pounds for his defense. On motion of the defendant's counsel the place of trial was changed from Erie to Oneida county. The excitement was intense in this country and in England, for it was believed that if the prisoner was convicted and the state of New York undertook to execute him, war would be declared by England. Mr. Spencer, then the foremost advocate in the entire country, tried the case with matchless ability, and summed it up with great power. The original manuscript of his minutes, taken upon the trial, are now in the possession of the Oneida historical society at Utica. Judge Gridley, in his charge, called attention to the great importance of the case, and told the jury that if, in their judgment, the evidence warranted a verdict of guilty, to convict the prisoner, though it should "light up the land with the flame of war." McLeod was acquitted, and further international complications in regard to the subject were averted. The writer was informed by

Richard H. Morehouse, who, at the time, was a clerk in Mr. Spencer's office, that some months after the trial, the British government sent Mr. Spencer for his services in the case ten thousand dollars, which, at that time, was considered a very large counsel fee.

In 1850 a series of fires occurred in Utica, which were believed to be incendiary. At this time intense rivalry existed between the volunteer fire companies, and each company, in order to demonstrate its superiority, was anxious that there should be frequent fires, and they always occurred when desired. It was generally believed throughout the city that some one connected with the fire department was instrumental in bringing about the desired result. For a long time no discovery could be made of the perpetrators of the offenses. At length the First Presbyterian church, at that time one of the finest churches in the state, was burned. This so aroused the people that an extraordinary effort was made, and the culprits were finally apprehended. The principal offender was one Conkling. It was believed that he was a tool of those higher up in the social scale, and who, after his arrest, fled the country. Conkling was tried, convicted and hung, and another offender was sentenced to state's prison for life.

Passing over the numerous civil and criminal cases which have been had in the county in years gone by, and coming down to the present time, reference is made to a case of unusual character. Early one morning in the fall of 1909, two little children were found in a secluded spot in Utica murdered, and a third one seriously wounded. The living child, a girl of about six years of age, had been shot, and had lain on the ground all night. She could give very little information in regard to the crime. For some time afterward no clue could be obtained concerning the perpetrator of the terrible murder. After a few days, however, little by little, the authorities secured bits of evidence, and, putting them together, were convinced that an Italian named Rizzo was the criminal. He was arrested, and, although it was difficult to establish any motive for the crime, he was tried, convicted and electrocuted.

In 1907, it was common report throughout the county that gross frauds had been perpetrated by members of the board of supervisors in dealing with public affairs. It was claimed that false accounts had been lodged against the county, and that certain supervisors had shared in the spoil. The district attorney made an investigation, and the result was that indictments were found against John W. Potter, Democrat, of Marey, who had been chairman of the board; Frederick E. Swancott, Republican, of the third ward of Utica, who had also been chairman of the board; Robert McCreary, supervisor from the first ward of Utica; Albert H. Vandawalker, of Camden, who had been clerk of the board; Samuel Jones, sheriff of the county; Leonard Drake, under sheriff. John Collins, merchant of Utica, who had sold furniture which had been paid for by the county, but which furniture had been delivered to the house of Supervisor Potter, was also indicted for fraudulent practice with the board of supervisors, pleaded guilty, and was fined \$1,000. Leonard Drake, under-sheriff, was fined and imprisoned; Potter, Swancott and Jones were convicted, and sentenced to state's prison, while McCreary and Vandawalker pleaded guilty and were fined.

The story of the county, so far as the trial of law suits is concerned, both civil and criminal, is like that of any other large county in the state, and to record contests of this character, for life, liberty and property, would be the work of a lifetime. The county, however, is rich in material for biographical sketches, and the most difficult task in preparing them is to distinguish between the many worthy men who have honored the county by their eminent services. In selecting the following subjects for life sketches it is not intended to infer that there are no others who are equally worthy, but as a line must be drawn it has been done arbitrarily, and the only excuse is that life sketches of all the prominent lawyers who have lived in the county would extend this chapter beyond the limits prescribed for the work proposed.

WILLIAM J. BACON was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, February 18, 1803, and graduated from Hamilton College at nineteen years of age. For a year he edited the *Utica Daily Gazette*, then commenced the study of law in the office of Joseph Kirkland. He was admitted to the bar in 1828, and at this bar, which numbered some of the foremost lawyers in the state, few surpassed him in attractiveness and acquirements. During this same year he married Eliza, daughter of Mr. Kirkland. He was a second time married, after the death of his first wife, to Mrs. Susan S. Gillette. In 1850 he served as member of assembly, and was re-elected the following year. He served in the state legislature with great distinction, and so commended himself to the public and the bar that in 1853 he was elected justice of the Supreme Court, and was re-elected in 1862. As the term of this office at that time was eight years, Judge Bacon served upon the bench for sixteen years. On his retirement a meeting of the bar of the county was held in Utica to express its appreciation of the ability, integrity and fairness which had characterized him in his high office for so long a time. Virtually without opposition in his own party, he was the candidate for representative in Congress in 1876, and served one term in the house of representatives. His standing as a lawyer and as a man was such that the opinion of no one in the central part of the state had greater weight than his. He was a director in many of the most important business enterprises; was a trustee of Hamilton College, a director and the president of the Savings bank of Utica. He always responded to the call of the public, and did his share in good works for the city, the county, for charitable institutions and the churches in his native city. Judge Bacon, as a lawyer at the bar, was near the front rank. He brought to the office of justice of the Supreme Court a ripe scholarship, broad culture, honest intentions, and, after serving two terms in that high office, he retired from the bench having the respect and confidence of the entire judicial district. His opinions in the appellate courts are models of English and, although they lack the strength of some others, none surpass them in elegance of diction and refinement. As a judge and citizen he left an enviable reputation.

BLOOMFIELD J. BEACH was born in Taberg, Lewis county, June 27, 1820. He was educated in the common school, Rome select school, and entered Hamilton College as a sophomore in 1835. He remained there for two years, and then



JOHN C. DAVIS  
Attorney General



WILLIAM J. BACON  
Justice Supreme Court



CHARLES H. DOOLITTLE  
Justice Supreme Court



HENRY J. COGGESHALL  
State Senator for seventeen  
years



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went to Princeton, from which institution he graduated in 1838. He first took up the profession of civil engineer, and for two years was employed on the Erie canal. In 1840 Mr. Beach studied law in Rome with Calvin B. Gay, and was admitted to the bar in 1843, and was a partner with Mr. Gay until 1846; then he became a partner in the firm of Stryker, Comstock & Beach. The next year Mr. Stryker retired from the firm, and it remained Comstock & Beach until 1855, when Mr. Beach retired, and formed a partnership with the late Alexander H. Bailey under the firm name of Beach & Bailey, and this firm existed until the death of Mr. Bailey in 1874. Then Mr. Beach formed a partnership with Daniel E. Wager, which firm continued up to Mr. Beach's death. In 1847 he was elected to the assembly, and was a prominent member of that body, serving on important committees, and holding a prominent place among his fellow members. Mr. Beach was prominently connected with most of the industries and business institutions of Rome; was trustee of the Savings bank and of the Water Works company; president of the Central New York institute for deaf mutes; trustee of the Rome Iron Works, Merchants Iron Mills, and the Rome Copper Company; director of Fort Stanwix National bank and The First National bank of Rome, and of the Rome & Clinton Railroad. He was president of the village of Rome in 1853-54 and 1863. He married Fannie Whittemore of Nassau, N. Y., and after her death and in 1874 he married Miss C. Elizabeth Bacon of Sing Sing. As a lawyer Mr. Beach ranked very high, as he had a thorough knowledge of the general principles of law. He tried few cases, but no man in the county was better counsel than he upon questions of law and business. He was ever honorable in his relations with men, and stood in the front rank of lawyers in the county for integrity.

SAMUEL BEARDSLEY was born in Hoosick, Rensselaer county, N. Y., February 6, 1790. His parents removed from there to Otsego county. Mr. Beardsley received a common school education, and for a time was engaged in teaching school. He read law with Joshua Hathaway of Rome, N. Y., was admitted to the bar in 1815, and located in Watertown; he removed from there to Rome, and from Rome to Utica. In February, 1821, he was appointed district attorney of Oneida county, and served four years. In 1823 he was appointed United States attorney for the northern district of New York. In 1830 he was elected to Congress, and was three times re-elected. He was appointed judge of the circuit court in January, 1834, but declined the appointment. In 1836 he was appointed attorney general of the State of New York, and in 1844 he was appointed justice of the Supreme Court, and was made chief judge in 1847. After retiring from the bench he resumed his practice in Utica, and for a time also had an office in New York City. He was one of the foremost judges of the state. He died in Utica May 6, 1860.

ARTHUR M. BEARDSLEY, son of Judge Samuel Beardsley, was born in Rome, June 22, 1822. He prepared for college and entered Hobart, but left in his junior year. He then studied law with his father, was admitted to the bar, but did not commence practice at once. He purchased a half interest in the *Utica Observer*, at that time a weekly paper, and he and John F. Kittle started a

Democratic daily paper under the name of the *Utica Observer and Gazette*. Soon he was classed as a hard shell in the Democratic ranks, and was a bitter opponent to what was known as the Softs and to the Free Soil Democrats. His writings were vigorous, strong, clear, but occasionally bitter. Mr. Beardsley's tastes were more in the line of his profession than as a newspaper man, and he, therefore, sold his interest, and a new firm, known as Lyon & Grove, assumed control of the *Observer*, and Mr. Beardsley returned to practice his profession with his illustrious father. After the death of Samuel Beardsley the son practiced his profession alone until 1867, when he admitted as a partner Henry J. Cookinham. This partnership continued until 1874, when Francis M. Burdick, who is now a professor in Columbia College, N. Y., was admitted as a partner. In 1880 this firm was dissolved, and the firm of Beardsley, Burdick & Beardsley was formed, the junior member being the son, Samuel A. Beardsley. As a lawyer Mr. Beardsley ranked among the very highest in the county, was an honest and upright man, wrote a powerful brief, and stood very high at the bar. He died November 1, 1905, at Utica.

HENRY W. BENTLEY of Boonville studied law with his father, and commenced practice at Boonville in the year 1861. He took a prominent place at the bar very soon after his admission, and had as partner at times Leander Fiske and Thomas S. Jones. He was appointed surrogate of Oneida county upon the death of William H. Bright, and was nominated by the Democrats for the same position, but did not succeed at the election. He was nominated for representative in Congress in 1900 against James S. Sherman, and was elected because of a division in the Republican party over the appointment of postmasters by Mr. Sherman. He was again nominated against Mr. Sherman in 1902, but was defeated. He was a member of the board of commissioners for the erection of a new court house in the city of Utica, and was chairman from the organization of the commission down to the time of his death, which occurred at Boonville. January 27, 1907.

His death was quite a tragedy. A reception had been given the evening before by Thomas R. Proctor to Judge DeAngelis, who had just been elected, and a large reception also occurred at the Fort Schuyler club in Utica. Mr. Bentley attended, was in fine spirits, left the club about midnight, went to Bagg's hotel in company with a friend, remained there all night, and took an early train for Boonville. This was a very cold morning. He walked from the station to his residence, a distance of perhaps half a mile, sat down to the breakfast table, and was almost instantly dead. Mr. Bentley served in many cases as referee and commissioner, and had the reputation of being a man of high character and excellent ability.

GREENE C. BRONSON was born in Simsbury, Connecticut, in November, 1789. He had only a common school education, but by great industry and study he became a man of unusual acquirements. For a time he taught school and studied law. He removed to Utica in 1824, was appointed surrogate, and served two years. He was elected to the state assembly, and was appointed attorney general February 27, 1829. March 5, 1845, he was appointed chief justice of the

Supreme Court. On the adoption of the new constitution he was made one of the judges of the Court of Appeals. This office he resigned in 1851, and removed to New York City, where he practiced his profession. President Pierce appointed him collector of the port in 1853, but he held the office only a short time. He was nominated for governor in 1854, but was defeated. In December, 1859, Judge Bronson was made corporation counsel for the City of New York, and served until 1863. He died at Saratoga, September 3, 1863. The opinions of Judge Bronson while on the bench were clear, concise and strong, and placed him in the front rank among the judges of the court of last resort in the state.

ALEXANDER COBURN died in Utica, N. Y., November 25, 1894. He was born August 18, 1807, at Woodstock, Wainman county, Conn., on a farm, and lived with his father, who was a farmer, until he was fourteen years of age. He then went to Bradford, Penn., and remained there with an uncle until he was seventeen years of age. In summer he worked on farms, and taught school in the winter, until he was twenty-five years of age. He then came to New York state and attended the Stockbridge academy at Munnsville. There he prepared for college, and entered Hamilton College in the class of 1833. He left, however, and taught one term at Stockport, Columbia county, and did not graduate until 1837. In the fall of that year he commenced studying law with Joseph Benedict, late of Utica, and who at that time was a lawyer at Sherburne, N. Y. In 1838 Mr. Coburn came to Utica, and was connected with Oliver M. Benedict, who was then practicing law in Utica. He was admitted to the bar in 1840, and for a time was a partner with Mr. Benedict. Afterwards he was a partner with the late Samuel B. Garvin, but Mr. Garvin removed to New York, and Mr. Coburn's health was so poor that he was not able to practice law. He was, however, in 1845, made city attorney, and in 1850 he was justice of the peace, and held that office for some time, but in 1854 he resigned in consequence of ill health. In 1867 his health had so improved that he was able to practice his profession again, and he entered the office of Senator Roscoe Conkling as managing clerk, and remained there until 1870, when he entered the office of Spriggs & Matthews in the same capacity. After a short time he formed a partnership with O. Arthur White, and practiced law under the name of Coburn & White for about a year, when this partnership was dissolved, and he entered the office of Spriggs & Matthews as managing clerk, and held this position to 1886, when he virtually retired from business. Mr. Coburn was a man of excellent acquirements, and as a lawyer he stood in the front rank for ability, learning and integrity. His almost morbid diffidence prevented his attaining the position in the public mind that he was entitled to, although lawyers who knew him recognized his unusual acquirements. Perhaps no one in the county was consulted privately by other attorneys more than he. He was always ready to advise younger attorneys gratuitously in regard to legal matters, and his opinion was highly valued by all who came in contact with him. During the time he acted as managing clerk for the different attorneys he held a very high place in the office. Although he did not take part in the trial of cases at the circuit, he very frequently argued cases in the general term of the Supreme Court and in the Court of Appeals. He was a fair antagonist, but one to be



feared, unless the opposing counsel had mastered his case. No law point escaped Mr. Coburn, and his briefs were masterpieces of work. He had a very retentive and accurate memory. He knew the text books, and was ready to turn immediately to controlling cases upon almost any point called in question. I well remember the last time I ever saw him. It was a short time before he died, and after his eyesight had become so impaired that he could not read. He called at my office to ascertain whether or not he had remembered some statute law correctly. He stated what he thought the law was, and asked me to look it up and see whether or not he was correct. It was a pleasant duty to perform for Mr. Coburn, as I had frequently consulted him in his palmy days upon questions of law. When I turned to statutes which he inquired about, I found that he had remembered them absolutely and stated the law correctly. Mr. Coburn married Cordelia L. Wood, daughter of John K. Wood of Madison county in January, 1841. He had no children, and upon his death the family became extinct, at least in this part of the country. Mr. Coburn was, as a man and lawyer, highly respected; he was a modest gentleman of the old school and of character above reproach.

ROSCOE CONKLING. Although it is as lawyers only, that this chapter treats its subjects, yet, with some trepidation, it presents for consideration, one of the most interesting characters that has ever appeared in this county. On October 30, 1829, at Albany, New York, Roscoe Conkling was born. His father was Alfred Conkling, a man of acquirements, a lawyer of eminence, and, at one time judge of the United States district court for the northern district of New York. His mother was Eliza Cockburn. When thirteen years of age the young man was placed in the Washington Collegiate Institute in New York, and remained there for one year. He attended the academy at Auburn, New York, for three years, beginning in 1843, to which city his father had removed from Albany. Impatient of study in the schools and not electing a college course, but rather desiring to be in active life, he commenced his law studies in the office of Spencer & Kernan in Utica in 1846, and was admitted to the bar in 1850, about six months before he became twenty-one years of age. He was exceedingly fortunate in being on friendly terms with the influential men in his political party, and on April 22, 1850, was appointed district attorney of this county. It is probable that he was the youngest man who ever held that office in the state of New York. The duties of this office are such that he obtained at once a varied experience. He was immediately called upon to try important criminal cases, and from the first he showed the metal in his composition. Under the firm name of Walker & Conkling he practiced law for several years. In 1858 he was married to Julia, daughter of Henry Seymour, and sister of ex-governor and John F. Seymour of Utica. During that year he was elected mayor of Utica, and in the fall was nominated by the Republican party for the office of representative in Congress. This was brought about by a political conference held at the residence of General R. U. Sherman, in the house that stood upon the corner of Eagle and Kemble streets. (Several years since the house was removed from the lot and the lot has remained vacant since.) The conference was called to agree upon a candidate for representative



ROSCOE CONKLING  
United States Senator



in Congress in opposition to Orsamus B. Matteson, who had served for several years in Congress, and was the political leader, and for years had held undisputed sway in the county, but by reason of serious complications in his official life had provoked intense feeling and opposition. There were present at the conference Mr. Conkling, Ward Hunt, Richard U. Sherman, Joseph A. Shearman, Palmer V. Kellogg, William Ferry, A. D. Barber, and some others. After considerable controversy Mr. Conkling was selected as the candidate to oppose the Matteson element in the party. Charles H. Doolittle was the opposing candidate, and a bitter fight for the nomination followed. Mr. Conkling was nominated in the convention, and elected over P. Sheldon Root, the Democratic candidate. Before the termination of his term of office the question of war between the states filled the minds of the people, and, in the exciting election of 1860, which made Abraham Lincoln president of the United States, Mr. Conkling was re-elected to Congress by an increased majority. In 1862 he was defeated by Francis Kernan, and in 1864 he defeated Mr. Kernan for the same office. Division in the Republican party in 1866 threatened to defeat him, but within a few days before election the tide turned in his favor. Palmer V. Kellogg, who had been one of his staunchest supporters, had been nominated by a body of men calling themselves Independent Republicans, and he was adopted as the candidate of the Democratic party. Mr. Conkling, however, received a handsome majority after one of the most remarkable campaigns ever experienced in the county. It has been said many times by the friends of Mr. Conkling, that the most effective speech of his life was delivered during this campaign in Old Concert Hall, which stood upon the lot now occupied by the post-office. This was a meeting of the workingmen's party, a vast majority of whom, up to that time, were supporting Mr. Kellogg. Mr. Conkling's address at this meeting was so convincing that he changed the sentiment of the audience, which was adverse to him in the beginning, to an overwhelming sentiment in his favor. In the winter of 1867 he was elected to the United States senate, and re-elected in 1873 and 1879. Soon after his election to the senate in 1873, he was tendered by President Grant the nomination of chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Still later in 1882, he was appointed by President Arthur and confirmed by the senate to the position of associate justice of the Supreme Court, but he declined both offices.

It seems almost incredible that a lawyer who filled such important positions as Mr. Conkling had, and who had never slighted the duties demanded, should have any time to devote to the practice of his profession. With ordinary men such would have been the case, but Mr. Conkling is not to be classed with ordinary men. In his case, as in that of all others who have attained in the world, the story was ever the same, work, work, work. It would be a safe estimate to make that out of the twenty-four hours of the day, he worked eighteen. Up to the time of his election to the United States senate he made it a practice to attend every circuit court held in the county, and he was invariably retained in every important trial. His adversary was almost invariably Francis Kernan. The reason for this is apparent. The plaintiff on bringing an important suit, naturally retained one of the ablest attorneys in the county, and this forced the defendant to retain the other. When such a case was on trial the court house



was invariably crowded with spectators, not because of the interest in the case, but in the counsel at the bar. It was an event never to be forgotten by a lawyer, to attend court presided over by Foster or Doolittle, and hear Conkling and Kernan conduct a trial. The practice of Mr. Conkling was largely confined to the trial of civil actions, although occasionally he defended a criminal charged with some high crime, and in a very few instances he assisted district attorneys in prosecuting a criminal who was charged with a serious offense. He argued few cases on appeal. The Court of Appeals reports show that he never appeared in that court more than four or five times, and the same is true as to the general term of the Supreme Court. He occasionally, but not frequently, appeared in trials in the United States circuit court, and on some occasions he argued cases in the Supreme Court of the United States.

After the dissolution of the firm of Walker & Conkling, Mr. Conkling was associated with Montgomery Throop. This firm existed from 1855 to 1862. Afterwards he formed a partnership under the name of Conkling, Holmes & Coxe, and on its dissolution the firm of Conkling, Lord & Coxe was formed: Scott, Lord and Honorable Alfred C. Coxe being the partners. After Mr. Conkling retired from the senate, and in November, 1881, he opened a law office in the city of New York. Among those who sought his services almost immediately were Jay Gould, Thomas A. Edison and C. P. Huntington. The cases in which he was retained were of great interest and involved unusual and difficult questions of law. There were invariably arrayed against him in these litigations some of the leaders of the New York bar, and seldom, if ever, was he over-matched. Among other cases of importance which he argued in the Supreme Court of the United States were *The County of San Mateo vs. The Southern Pacific Railroad Company*, *Cook County National Bank vs. The United States*, and *Marie vs. Garrison*. After his death there were many expressions of opinion in regard to Mr. Conkling as a lawyer, by prominent judges and lawyers who had known him during his career in New York city. Perhaps Judge Shipman, of the United States circuit court, has given the truest estimate of his standing in the metropolis. He said: "I thought him a great and profound lawyer, and that he would have been in the front rank of his profession at any time or place. He did not have the accurate learning of Judge B. R. Curtis, or the great wealth of legal knowledge of Mr. O'Connor, but I was exceedingly surprised to see how much he had retained after his long congressional career. His affluence of language and of illustration was great; but he had a wonderful power of statement, and he was an inventor in the art of decorating his statement so as to make it attractive."

Mr. Conkling was, however, essentially an advocate. When at times he took part in important trials on the same side with Mr. Kernan, Mr. Doolittle, or with any other eminent counsel, in every instance he made the argument to the jury. This clearly shows that all associated counsel recognized him as their superior in that particular branch of the practice. Early in life Mr. Conkling commenced making the most thorough preparation for the trial in every case. It was his custom to take very full notes of the evidence on the trial. In this he was very proficient, as he wrote a very excellent hand, and very rapidly. As nearly all the trials in which he took part required several days, and some-

times weeks, he occupied his time at night in preparing to sum up the case. He wrote out from time to time during the trial portions of his argument. This enabled him to be ready at the close of the evidence to present the case to the jury from his written argument, which he held in his hand much of the time while speaking. He once said that he would rather stand up before a jury and look the twelve men in the eye, than to do any other thing in the world. Many times during the trial of a case he would startle those upon his own side by the audacious way in which he would conduct the trial. This might occur in regard to the examination of a witness or in his method of presenting the case to the jury. Many trials, civil and criminal, might be mentioned to show Mr. Conkling's peculiar ability and tact before a jury. Perhaps in no case ever tried by him was this shown to better advantage than in Northrup against Richardson. The action had been brought on the following facts: A woman, riding in a carriage, was approaching Utica from Marey. On reaching the bridge over the Mohawk river the carriage was struck by a milk wagon, overturned, and the woman precipitated down an embankment. She claimed to be seriously injured. The milk wagon was owned by a farmer and was driven by his son. The woman lay upon a bed for two years after the accident. Her husband finally brought suit against the father of the boy for damages. The trial was had in Utica; Mr. Kernan and Mr. Spriggs for the plaintiff, and Mr. Conkling for the defendant, and it lasted about two weeks. The woman was brought into court upon a bed, and for two days gave her testimony. The scene was pathetic in the extreme. Mr. Conkling treated her with great kindness, but cross examined her carefully. When the evidence was closed the sentiment of the court, of the audience, and undoubtedly of the jury was very strong in the woman's favor. He took the startling ground that the woman was absolutely well; that she could leave the bed and walk out of the court house; that she was honest in the belief that she could not walk, but that she was mistaken. Against the strong argument made by Mr. Kernan on the other side, and a charge favorable to the woman by Judge Bacon, the jury rendered a verdict in Mr. Conkling's favor. Now comes the sequel. Angered by the fact that she had lost the case, the woman arose from her bed that very day and walked the streets of Utica. Could even modern Christian Science have wrought a more complete cure?

Mr. Conkling's method in presenting a case to a jury and also in arguing questions of law to the court, has been inordinately praised and severely criticised. Both his admirers and critics have at times been right. His speeches were always very elaborate, very ornate, and contained all manner of figures of speech. Some very good, and some very defective. Take for instance these: In the case of *The People of the State of New York vs. Dennison*, argued before the Court of Appeals, he characterized the case as "a haleyon and voceiferous proceeding." It might be asked what that phrase means? In summing up the case of *Smith vs. The New York Central Railroad*, referring to a prominent witness and official of the road, who wore a diamond pin on his shirt front, he said, "The time will come, gentlemen of the jury, when the diamonds which sparkle on Major Priest's bosom will buy less salvation than the merest pebble at the bottom of the spring of the poorest beggar." In another instance he referred

to a witness who was addicted to drink, as follows: "His mouth spread over his face, a fountain of falsehood and a sepulchre for rum."

Although as an advocate, Mr. Conkling ranked among the foremost in the state, his success was not due so much to what he said, as the way he said it. The effect upon the jury was produced by him much in the same way as George Whitfield affected his audiences, of whom it was said that he could pronounce the word "Mesopotamia" so as to bring his audience to tears. Mr. Conkling's splendid physique, graceful manner, round, full, melodious voice, and the power of his personal magnetism, was almost resistless. He did not persuade the jury; he overpowered them, and made his will theirs. Give him the last speech to a jury, and if the case was anywhere nearly balanced on the evidence he would win a verdict. Although he was always listened to with close attention by the appellate courts, he was not so effective here as at the trial. Had he devoted his entire life to the study and practice of law, he would have ranked as a lawyer among the foremost that the country has ever produced, but no man can be so great that he can gain the very front rank at the bar without devoting substantially his lifetime to the profession. For a knowledge of law and the ability to apply it to given facts, perhaps Hunt was his equal, and Foster and Kernan his superiors, yet, for all in all, had he an equal among us? What one of all the lawyers who has lived in the entire country during the last twenty-eight years, except Roscoe Conkling, would have refused a seat on the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, or to be its Chief Justice?

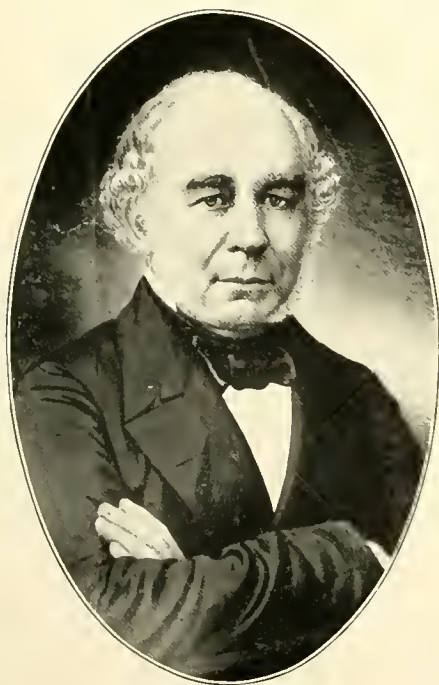
ALFRED C. COXE was born at Auburn, N. Y., in 1845. His father, Rev. Hanson Coxe, moved to Utica while his son was a boy. Young Coxe prepared for college at the Utica Free academy, entered Hamilton College with the class of 1868, but left during his junior year and commenced studying law with his uncle, United States Senator Roscoe Conkling; was admitted to the bar and commenced practice as a partner with his uncle. In 1882 he was appointed judge of the district court of the United States for the northern district of New York, and in 1903 he was promoted to circuit judge for the second circuit. On the creation of the United States court of customs he was appointed by President Taft its first presiding judge, but he declined to accept the office. For several years past he has been a member of the Circuit Court of Appeals for the second circuit.

HIRAM DENIO was born in Rome, N. Y., May 21, 1799. His education was obtained at the Fairfield academy, Herkimer county, and he studied law with Judge Hathaway of Rome and Storrs & White of Whitesboro. He commenced practicing in Rome in 1821, was appointed district attorney in October, 1825, and served for nine years. In 1826 he removed to Utica. In 1834 he was appointed circuit judge, and served for about four years. June 23, 1853, he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the Court of Appeals, and twice afterwards was elected to the same office, and served as one of the judges of that court until 1866. He died in Utica on the 17th day of October, 1868. Judge Denio ranked very high as a judge, and perhaps no one who ever sat in the court of last resort in the state served the public better than he. His opinions rank with the best that were ever written in any court in the entire country.





SAMUEL BEARDSLEY  
Chief Judge of Supreme Court of  
Judiciary



HIRAM DENIO  
Judge of the Court of Appeals



ALEXANDER S. JOHNSON  
Judge of the United States Circuit Court,  
Second Circuit





CHARLES M. DENNISON was born in Floyd, April 3, 1822, and died at Whitesboro, November 5, 1900. He was the son of Samuel Dennison, and was educated at Whitestown seminary, Clinton Liberal institute, and at the Holland Patent academy. He studied law with Alanson Bennett at Rome, and was admitted to the bar in 1847. He practiced law alone in Rome until 1852, when he took as a partner George Harrison Lynch, and this partnership continued until 1870. At that time Mr. Dennison removed from Rome to Utica, where he resided for about one year and practiced law in Utica. He then took up his residence in Whitesboro. In Utica he formed a partnership with John H. Knox, and afterwards also took as a partner Charles J. Everett. This firm existed only for a short time, when Mr. Knox retired. The firm continued under the name of Dennison & Everett until 1881, when Mr. Everett retired, and Mr. Dennison took as his partner his son, George E. Dennison. In 1862 Mr. Dennison was appointed assistant assessor of internal revenue at Rome, and he held that position as long as the office existed. After Congress enacted the law for the supervision of elections Mr. Dennison was appointed chief supervisor of election for the northern district of New York, and he held this position down to the time of his death. Mr. Dennison was a prominent candidate for judge of the United States district court, and had a strong backing, but the president appointed William J. Wallace of Syracuse instead of Mr. Dennison to that position. In 1874 Mr. Dennison was supported for the nomination of justice of the Supreme Court by many Republicans, but he did not secure the nomination. He married Cornelia Pond March 4, 1851. He was prominent at the bar during his entire career, although he rarely took part in the trial of cases. His time was given more to the settlement of estates, and he had also a large practice in bankruptcy under the act of 1867. His ability was such that had he devoted himself to the trial of cases he would have been eminently successful.

CHARLES H. DOGLITTLE was born in Herkimer, N. Y., February 19, 1816, prepared for college at Fairfield academy, and graduated from Amherst in 1836. He commenced his legal studies in Little Falls, but soon after came to Utica and studied with Denio & Hunt. He was admitted to the bar in 1839, and soon attained a position in the front rank at the bar. His acquirements were unusual, and his industry was almost unparalleled. No matter how trivial the case might be, he made the most thorough investigation and did everything possible to prepare his case for trial. He was very quick of perception, a profound lawyer, and a courteous gentleman. He was a member of the city council in 1839-44-45, and was mayor of Utica in 1853. In 1869 he was elected justice of the Supreme Court, and served until his death. He was one of the few men who have occupied a seat upon the bench of the Supreme Court in this state of whom it could be said he was really a great judge. Becoming absolutely worn out by overwork, he was advised by his physician to take a trip abroad. He sailed from New York in May, 1874, and was lost overboard. No account was ever given of his disappearance, whether by accident or otherwise. The date of his death is given as May 21, 1874.

HENRY A. FOSTER. One of the most prominent lawyers of Utica said recently that as "a clean cut lawyer" Henry A. Foster was the equal of any man any-

where. This remarkable man was born at Hartford, Connecticut, May 7, 1800, and died at Rome on the 11th day of May, 1889.

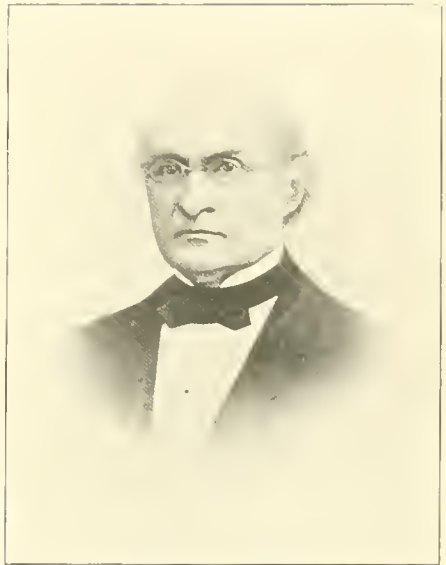
His legal education was acquired in the office of David B. Johnson of Cazenovia, B. Davis Noxon of Onondaga Hill, Onondaga county, Beach & Popple of Oswego, and James Sherman of Rome. He commenced trying cases in the justice court before he was admitted to the bar, and it was then said of him that when Foster was in a case "it meant business." In 1822 he was admitted to the bar; and, he had acquired such a reputation for the trial of the cases in the justice court that on the same day he was admitted he was assigned to defend a criminal against the famous Samuel Beardsley, who was at that time district attorney. The case presented some new and intricate questions of law which Foster argued with marked ability and procured an acquittal. In 1826 Mr. Foster was nominated for member of assembly, but failed of election. The next year, when he was only twenty-six years of age, he was appointed surrogate of the county, and held this office until 1831, when he relinquished it to become state senator, to which office he had been elected. He was during three years, beginning in 1826, trustee for the village of Rome, and supervisor of the town for five years. In August, 1835, he was again appointed surrogate, and resigned the position in 1837 to take his seat in the United States house of representatives. In 1840 he was again elected state senator. Before his term expired he resigned to accept the appointment of United States senator. His failure of re-election to the United States senate, and the disappointments attending it, gave color to all his after life. From that time forth he was irascible and impatient. These characteristics frequently worked to his disadvantage. President Pierce appointed him in 1853 United States district attorney for the northern district of New York, but he declined the office. Until the agitation over the slavery question assumed such proportions as to threaten the nation's life, Mr. Foster had been a Democrat, but soon after the formation of the Republican party he became a Republican. In 1863 he was nominated by his party for the office of justice of the Supreme Court, and elected. On his election he removed from Rome to Oswego, and resided there until his term of office expired, when he returned to his former home at Rome, and there he lived and practiced his profession until a short time before his death. It is questionable whether there was ever an abler justice of the Supreme Court in this state than Foster. His knowledge of law was so great, his memory so remarkable, his perception so quick that he seemed a very prodigy when upon the bench. As an illustration of his marvelous memory it is related by an eminent lawyer that he met Judge Foster, long after his term of office had expired, and spoke of a case that he had tried before him many years before. He found that the judge remembered it to the minutest detail, and he then said to him, "Judge Foster, I am astonished to know that you remember this case." The judge replied, "I remember every case that was ever tried before me."

At a court held by him in Utica an important case was tried by Roscoe Conkling on one side, Francis Kernan and J. Thomas Spriggs on the other. He had many difficult questions of law to decide on the spur of the moment, and he showed great ability in his rulings. The evidence was completed; the case was summed up by Mr. Conkling on one side, and Mr. Kernan on the other.



WARD HUNT

Justice of the Supreme Court of the United  
States



HENRY A. FOSTER

United States Senator



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Then the judge gave one of his masterly charges to the jury. Mr. Conkling, after hearing the charge, turned to a friend and said, "Judge Foster knows everything." It was not alone in the field of law that his unusual acquirements appeared. He had an unusual knowledge of science, literature, mathematics, philosophy, geography, almost everything. Not long before his death he appeared as counsel in an important case at a special term in this county. The judge who held the court and who has since died, after hearing Foster's argument said, "He is the noblest Roman of them all." As a judge Foster was sometimes very impatient. This was always the case if a lawyer, addressing the court, failed to make his point clear, or if he wandered from the point at issue or repeated an argument. He could not tolerate a repetition. He considered it a reflection on his own comprehension. He would say sharply to counsel, "You have said that once, sir." On one occasion, when an attorney appeared before him and asked for an unusual and improper order, he said to him, in the hearing of the entire bar at court, "It is evident, sir, that you are a very poor lawyer." On another occasion, it is reported that an attorney, who had made a motion and saw that he was to be beaten, interrupted the court when it was rendering its decision by saying, "If your honor please, the first of Barber is dead against you." To which the judge replied, "The first of Foster holds, sir, that you sit down." It will readily be seen that Foster's court was an unpleasant place for a poor lawyer. It was also no place for a case which had no merit. His quick perception would soon distinguish the true from the false, and his endeavor was to so shape the trial that the right would prevail. He was sometimes, for this reason, perhaps, justly criticised for undertaking to control the verdict of the jury. His ability, however, was so great, that if he chose he could charge a jury in such a way as to almost invariably procure the verdict that he desired. Judge Foster was utterly free from anything like pretense or assumption. He was always elegant and dignified in his bearing, but his impatience and irascibility made him dreaded as an adversary at the bar, and feared when upon the bench. Yet his high character, great ability, and unusual acquirements placed him very near, if not at the very top of the legal ladder in this county.

PHILO GRIDLEY was born at Paris, Oneida county, N. Y., September 16, 1796. He graduated from Hamilton College in 1816, and for a time was a teacher in a classical school, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1820, and commenced practicing law at Waterville. From there he removed to Hamilton, Madison county, was district attorney of that county, and in 1838 was appointed circuit judge for the fifth judicial district and removed to Utica, where he afterward resided. Under the constitution of 1846, fixing the number of judges of the Supreme Court at 32, Judge Gridley was elected as one of the number. He also served in the Court of Appeals. He presided at the trial of Alexander McLeod, the most important criminal trial that ever occurred in Oneida county. He died August 16, 1864, in the city of his residence.

WARD HUNT. In March, 1886, there appeared in a prominent newspaper the following: "Utica has other sons adopted and resident here, and it has

sent into other parts of the union those who have earned civil and judicial decoration. Of its sons, born and raised, and always making their homes here, it is not too much to say that the most distinguished, he who has won the rarest honors and occupied the most of the attention of his profession, lies now in the coffin of Ward Hunt."

Passing through many judicial positions he finally attained the highest, save one, under the government. This prominence was not reached without unusual industry and character, most enviable. On January 14, 1810, in this city Ward Hunt first saw the light of day. His father was Montgomery Hunt, cashier of the Bank of Utica, and his mother the daughter of Captain Joseph Stringham of New York. He prepared for college at the Oxford and Geneva academies; entered Hamilton College, but went from there to Union to be under President Nott, and graduated in 1828. In after years he received from his alma mater and also from Rutgers College the degree of LL. D. His law studies were pursued at Litchfield, Conn., and at the office of Hiram Denio of this city. After admission to the bar in 1831 he became a partner with his former instructor under the firm name of Denio & Hunt. Within a short time after admission he commenced the trial of cases in all the courts, and soon gained a prominent position among the trial lawyers of the county. He was also known throughout Central New York as a safe counselor. In 1838 Mr. Hunt was elected to the assembly, but only served one term. In 1844 he was elected mayor of Utica over Frederick Hollister. In the practice of his profession he so commended himself to his party and the public that in 1853 he was nominated by the Democratic party for justice of the Supreme Court, his opponent being William J. Bacon. As there was a division in the Democratic party in the district Mr. Hunt was defeated. Soon after this the controversy over slavery which preceded the Civil War arose, and many Democrats, including Mr. Hunt, gave their support to the new party in its fight against the extension of slavery and the claims of the South.

Mr. Hunt never sacrificed or neglected his professional engagements for pleasure or for politics, but devoted his best energies first and always to his profession. His experience in varied and important litigations well fitted him for high judicial office, and so commended him that he was nominated by the Republican party for judge of the Court of Appeals in 1865. It is noteworthy that he was elected, and took the seat on the bench vacated by his former partner, Judge Denio. By the resignation of one judge and the death of another in this court he became the chief judge of the Court of Appeals. By an amendment to the state constitution this court was re-organized, and the old court was continued under the name of the commission of appeals. Judge Hunt served in this commission until January 7, 1873, when he resigned to accept the position of justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to which position he had been appointed by President Grant. For ten years he filled this high office with marked ability and unquestioned integrity, then on account of failing health, in 1882 he resigned. His health did not improve, and on March 24, 1886, he died in Washington, D. C. His body rests in Forest Hill cemetery in Utica. Through his long career as attorney and judge he received the respect of the public. With every instinct of a gentleman, with a broad culture obtained by study,

thought, and association with the best of the land, with a uniform courtesy and honesty of purpose, together with a dignity ever the same whether in his own office, on the street, in the trial of causes, or in the high offices to which he was elevated, Ward Hunt commanded the respect and admiration of every member of the bar who ever came into his presence.

TIMOTHY JENKINS was born January 29, 1799, at Barre, Massachusetts. He went from there to Washington county, N. Y., receiving an academic education, and afterward removed to Utica and studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1825. In 1832 he removed to Vernon. He was appointed district attorney in 1840, and held that position for five years. In 1844 he was elected a representative in Congress, and was re-elected in 1846 and also in 1850. He died December 24, 1859. Mr. Jenkins has always been counted one of the ablest lawyers that Oneida county ever produced. He was a Democrat in politics, until the question of slavery became the paramount question before the people. He then left the Democratic party and supported Fremont for the presidency, and was ever afterward a member of the Republican party.

ALEXANDER SMITH JOHNSON was born in Utica, July 30, 1817. His father was Alexander B. Johnson, and his mother Abigail L. S. Adams. He prepared for college at a private school in Utica, and entered Yale College in 1835. His room-mate was the late John F. Seymour of Utica. Mr. Johnson studied law with Judge Samuel Beardsley, and was admitted to the bar at the age of twenty-one. In 1839 he removed to New York city, and became a partner with Elisha P. Hurlburt, and afterwards with Charles F. Southmayd and Charles E. Butler. In 1851 he was elected judge of the Court of Appeals. It will be observed that he was at this time only thirty-four years of age, and it is worthy of remark that he was the youngest man who ever sat upon the bench of this court. In 1852 he married, at St. Catherine's, Canada, Catherine Maria Cryster. On retiring from the bench in 1860 he returned to Utica and resumed his law practice. In 1864 he was elected one of the regents of the university of the state of New York, and in the same year was appointed by President Lincoln one of the United States commissioners to settle the claims of the Hudson Bay company and Puget Sound company. In 1873 on the elevation of Judge Ward Hunt, who was serving in the commission of appeals, to the Supreme Court bench of the United States, Judge Johnson was appointed by the governor to succeed Judge Hunt in the commission of appeals. The next year, on the death of Judge Rufus Peekham, of the Court of Appeals, Judge Johnson was transferred from the commission to the court. He was nominated by the Republican party for the full term of a judge of this court, but, as the state went Democratic, he was defeated. In 1875 Governor Tilden named Mr. Johnson as one of the commissioners to revise the statutes of the state. In October of the same year he was appointed judge of the United States Circuit Court for the second circuit. In 1877 he became ill, and for relief went to the Bahama Islands. Here he found no relief, and he died January 26, 1878, and was buried in Forest Hill cemetery at Utica. Judge Johnson was a man of broad culture, thoroughly versed in the principles of law; conscientious, painstaking and faithful in all his duties,



and during his judicial career he stood in the front rank among judges, state and federal.

**D. M. K. JOHNSON.** For many years one of the foremost lawyers of Rome was D. M. K. Johnson. He was born at Cazenovia, November 7, 1815; prepared for college at the Cazenovia seminary, and entered the sophomore class of Hamilton College in 1832. In consequence of ill health he was obliged to give up his college course. He studied law in the office of his father, David B. Johnson, and was admitted as a counselor in 1840. In 1844 he removed to Rome, and commenced his law practice there. In the same year he married Frances Matteson of Rome. In 1859 he received the honorary degree of A. M., from Hamilton College. He was for a time a member of the law firm of Foster, Stryker, Johnson & Lynch. After the dissolution of this firm Mr. Johnson formed a partnership with D. L. Boardman. Afterwards the firm became Foster, Johnson, Boardman & Lynch, and later Mr. Johnson did business under the firm name of Johnson & Boardman, and later still under the firm name of Johnson & Prescott, the junior partner being the Honorable Cyrus D. Prescott. Mr. Johnson was careful in the preparation of his cases, was retained in many of the heavy litigations in the county, and for many years was counsel for the New York Central Railroad company. He was a very positive man, and could scarcely tolerate the fact that men differed with him. He was intense, and entered into his side of the case with more than usual interest, making his client's cause his own. It could be fairly said of him that his talent was greater than his tact, but for all in all he was a man of excellent standing at the bar, was a fair antagonist in the trial of cases, if somewhat arbitrary, but his high standing was never questioned, and he left an honorable name to his posterity.

**FRANCIS KERNAN.** Born of Irish parents on a farm in Tyrone, Schnyler county, N. Y., January 14, 1816, and trained in early life in the open air, the best school for giving perfect health and habits, Francis Kernan at the age of seventeen entered Georgetown College, District of Columbia, and in 1836 graduated and commenced the study of law with his brother-in-law, Edward Quinn, at Watkins, New York. In 1839 he removed to Utica, and entered the office of the famous advocate, Joshua A. Spencer, to complete his law studies. He was admitted to the bar in 1840, and had determined to remove to the West when Mr. Spencer offered him a partnership. This offer he accepted, and the firm of Spencer & Kernan was formed, which was the foundation of the Kernan law office, that for more than fifty years has held one of the foremost positions in the county. Mr. Kernan was married to Hannah Devereux, daughter of Nicholas Devereux, May 23, 1843. It is said that in order to have the general principles of law fresh in his mind he read Kent's Commentaries through every year during his early life. His ambition was to excel, and he knew that the road to success lay through the old beaten track of hard work. In 1853 the firm of Spencer & Kernan was dissolved, and that of Kernan & Quinn formed. In 1857 Mr. William Kernan was admitted to the partnership, which was then known as Kernan, Quinn & Kernan. Still later, and after the death of Mr. Quinn, Mr. Kernan's sons, respectively John D. and Nicholas E., were admitted



FRANCIS KERNAN  
United States Senator



to the firm. From 1854 to 1857 Mr. Kernan was the reporter of the Court of Appeals, and the five volumes of New York reports, commencing with the 11th and ending with the 14th, are his work. The Democratic party made him its candidate for member of assembly in 1860, and he was elected over General James McQuade. In 1862 he defeated Roscoe Conkling for member of Congress, but two years thereafter was defeated by Mr. Conkling for the same office. He served as a delegate in the constitutional convention of 1867-8, and in 1870 was elected to the board of regents of the university of New York. The state Democratic convention of 1872 nominated him for governor, but the popularity of General Grant, who was the candidate of the Republican party for the presidency, was such, that New York remained in the Republican column, and General Dix was elected governor over Mr. Kernan. In the election of 1874 the Democrats obtained control of the state legislature, and the logical candidate for United States senator was Mr. Kernan. He was elected without serious opposition to fill the office for six years from March 4, 1875. The county then enjoyed the unusual distinction of having both United States senators from the Empire state. Mr. Kernan was ever an enthusiastic advocate of free schools, and beginning in 1843 he served for twenty years upon the school board of this city. As eminent and successful as he was in other walks of life, yet it was as a lawyer that he was most conspicuous. His experience at the bar was second to no one who ever lived in this county. Long after he had reached the front he would try cases in the lower courts. One day he might appear in the county court in a case involving a few hundred dollars; the next day in the Court of Appeals to argue some momentous question involving large sums of money, grave constitutional questions, or important corporate rights. He manifested the same singleness of purpose and devotion to the interest of his client in one case as in the other. Any case entrusted to his care received his best endeavor. He was always serious in the conduct of a trial. The interests of his client were not to be trifled with. His position was clearly stated by himself to a friend to be this: "When I commenced practice I worried over the results of my cases, but I soon decided to do the very best I could in every case, and let the consequences take care of themselves."

In eliciting evidence from a witness Mr. Kernan manifested great shrewdness, and in addressing a jury he showed the same characteristic. It was this more than eloquence or persuasiveness that won him verdicts. His voice was somewhat harsh, and he never indulged in flights of eloquence or figures of speech when addressing a jury. He resorted to no claptrap; he relied on convincing the jury through their reason rather than influencing them by exciting their prejudices or sympathies. As an illustration of his shrewdness one instance may be cited. He was defending a man for murder. The defendant had killed a man by hitting him with a stone not much larger than a hen's egg. The district attorney had shown that at the time the defendant threw the stone he said with an oath he would kill his victim. This was relied upon to show premeditation and malice. In addressing the jury Mr. Kernan in a conversational tone of voice called attention to the circumstances, stated the case clearly, presenting all the strong points which the district attorney could make, and then picking up the stone from the table he showed it to the jury, and



still speaking in a conversational tone said: "Now, gentlemen, do you believe that defendant really intended to murder his friend when he threw that little stone and said he would kill him? Did he not use the expression in the same sense as any of us might use it, and without any idea of committing murder?" The jury evidently took this view of the case, as the conviction was for manslaughter in the third degree instead of murder. As effective as Mr. Kernan was in a jury trial, he was yet more so in his legal arguments in the higher courts. A search through the reports will show that he was frequently before the appellate courts upon some of the most important questions ever presented to the courts of the state. His briefs were masterly; never unnecessarily long, and never contained citations of cases which did not apply to the facts. He first mastered the case so far as the facts were concerned, and made a most concise and clear statement; then he applied the law to the facts. He cited few cases, but they were always on the question at issue, and were decisive of the point which he claimed for them. Every appellate court listened to his arguments with the closest attention, for it obtained from him great help in coming to a correct conclusion in the case. It is almost useless to say that for more than twenty years he was the leader of the Utica bar, and one of the most eminent lawyers in the entire country. Francis Kernan died at Utica September 8, 1892, and his body rests in St. Agnes cemetery in the city where he passed all the years of his manhood, and we bring our tribute to him in the words of Fitz Greene Halleck over his friend J. Rodman Drake.

"None knew him but to love him,  
None named him but to praise."

SMITH M. LINDSLEY held a high position at the bar of Oneida county. He was born at Monticello, Sullivan county, N. Y., April 11, 1847; studied law at Wilkesbarre, Pa., and in the office of Kernan & Kernan in Utica, and after his admission formed partnership with Hon. Watson T. Dunmore. This partnership did not last for many years, when Mr. Lindsley commenced practicing alone, but a short time before his death he had taken into partnership William S. Mackie. Mr. Lindsley was twice city attorney of Utica, was a police and fire commissioner, and was nominated as an independent candidate for mayor, but declined the honor. He was retained in many important suits, and tried his cases well, but his propensity to fight many times led him to say unnecessarily harsh things against an opponent, and also of opposing counsel. He was a statutory member of the board of commissioners for the erection of the new court house in Utica, and did efficient service upon the commission. He was president of the bar association at the time of his death, which occurred May 17, 1909.

ORSAMUS B. MATTESON was born in a log house August 28, 1805, in the town of Verona, in this county, and died in Utica December 22, 1889. His father was Silas Matteson, and his mother was Hannah Cogswell. When he was nineteen years of age he entered the office of Greene C. Bronson and Samuel Beardsley as a law student. He was admitted to the bar in 1830. One of his first clients was the late Alexander B. Johnson of Utica, who at the time was per-

haps the foremost business man of the city. Mr. Matteson was elected city attorney in 1830. He became a partner with William J. Bacon, and afterwards with P. Sheldon Root and the late Charles H. Doolittle, and afterwards with J. Wyman Jones; also G. H. Congor and Joseph Benedict. He was a Supreme Court commissioner early in life. His ability was such, as a business man, that he always had, while he gave his time to law practice, a very large and lucrative business. In 1846 he was first nominated for representative in Congress, but was defeated by Honorable Timothy Jenkins. He again was a candidate for the same office against Mr. Jenkins in 1848, and was elected, but was defeated in 1850. He was again elected and re-elected in 1852, '54 and '56. While in Congress he held a very prominent position. His influence was second to no man in the house of representatives. He was an intimate friend of Benjamin Wade of Ohio, John P. Hale of New Hampshire, Joshua R. Giddings of Ohio, and Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania. He took a prominent part in the agitation against slavery. In this his very life seemed to be enlisted. His hatred of slavery was so great that it over-ruled him completely in his political actions. He seemed to have one great thought, and that was to do all in his power to eliminate this curse from the land.

Actuated by revenge certain persons undertook his political destruction. He had written a letter to William C. Johnson of Utica, which it was claimed compromised him to such an extent that charges were preferred against him in the house of representatives. This occurred on July 15, 1856. The substance of the letter was that a money consideration was necessary to carry a certain measure through Congress. He also intimated that there were a sufficient number of congressmen that could be influenced by money to carry the measure. This letter it was claimed was stolen from the office of Mr. Johnson. An investigation in Congress was ordered, and on February 22, 1857, a committee reported in favor of his expulsion. This report was accompanied by three resolutions. The first charged that he had favored the use of money to influence legislation; the second that he had charged that there were members who had associated together and agreed not to vote for certain legislation except they were paid for it; the third resolution recommended expulsion. This investigation was made substantially without giving Mr. Matteson a fair hearing, and he saw that it was useless to defend himself against a prejudiced committee and a house in the state of mind that it was then in, because of his intimation that many of them were corrupt. He therefore, resigned his seat in Congress. The first two resolutions were adopted by the house, but the third was never voted upon. Mr. Matteson, after his retirement from Congress, gave much time to politics, and was for many years a potent factor in the Whig and Republican parties. It was he who led the fight against the first nomination of Roseoe Conkling to the position of representative in Congress, and it is notable that about this time he wrote a circular letter upon Mr. Conkling, in which he prophesied that Mr. Conkling would disrupt the Republican party. Strange to say this prophecy was fulfilled in that the influence of Mr. Conkling was the means of the defeat of James G. Blaine to the presidency in 1874. Mr. Matteson was tendered the nomination of mayor of the city of Utica in 1865, but he declined. This is the only time that he was nominated or tendered the nomination for any political

position after his resignation from the house of representatives. He married Augusta Hurlburt, daughter of Kellogg Hurlburt, May 17, 1830. Although he had a brilliant son, the late Henry C. Matteson, Mr. Matteson left no descendants except two granddaughters, and the name of his branch of the family by his death became extinct. Mr. Matteson was, for all in all, the ablest business man who ever appeared at the bar of this county. At one time he had accumulated a large fortune, but he became involved by the endorsement of his friends' paper, and lost it. He died, virtually dependent upon the bounty of his friends.

WILLIAM H. MAYNARD was born in Conway, Massachusetts. Soon after his graduation from college he removed to New Hartford, Oneida county, N. Y., and commenced studying law with General Joseph Kirkland. He also obtained an interest in the *Utica Patriot* and contributed to its columns until 1824. For a time he was a partner with Samuel A. Talcott. He was not admitted to practice in the Supreme Court until 1818. In 1828 he was elected state senator, and continued until 1832. In 1828 he became a partner with Joshua A. Spencer. Among the members of the bar contemporary with Mr. Maynard he was counted their equal if not their superior in knowledge of the law.

CHARLES MASON, although not a native of Oneida county, and notwithstanding he made Utica his home late in life, became identified with the Oneida bar, and was welcomed by it to one of the most important positions in the county. He had served as district attorney of Madison county, and for more than twenty years as justice of the Supreme Court, having been first elected in 1847. He had been a judge of the Court of Appeals, to which position he was appointed by Governor Fenton in 1868. Judge Mason was born in Plattsburg, New York; studied law in Watertown with William Ruger, and for a time practiced there as a partner with Mr. Ruger under the firm name of Ruger & Mason. From Watertown he removed to Hamilton in 1838, where he passed most of his life, as he did not move to Utica until 1869. He died in Utica May 31, 1879. Immediately on his taking up his residence in Utica the advice of Judge Mason was sought in many important cases, and perhaps no one who ever commenced practice in Utica in so short a time gained so prominent a position at our bar as he. His advice was highly valued among laymen, and also by the profession; and, as referee, in which position he frequently served, he was almost ideal.

ADDISON C. MILLER was born in Lowville, N. Y., November 12, 1831, and died in Utica December 18, 1894. He was the son of Dr. Sylvester Miller. He received a fair education, and when he was twenty years of age he came to Utica for the purpose of studying law. He entered the office of Mann & Edmunds, the senior member of which firm was Charles A. Mann, an uncle of Mr. Miller. Not long after Mr. Miller was admitted to the bar Mr. Mann retired from the firm, and Mr. Edmunds took Mr. Miller as a partner, and the firm became Edmunds & Miller. Later James F. Mann, the son of Charles A. Mann, was admitted to the firm. This firm did not exist for many years, and on its dissolution Mr. Miller carried on business alone until 1877, when he took as a



partner Frederick G. Fineke. On November 1, 1887, the firm became Miller, Fineke & Brandegee. In 1892 Mr. Miller retired from the firm, and virtually from active practice. From that time on until his death he gave attention to his own affairs and to the advising of large corporations in and about Utica. He was trustee and vice president of the Utica Savings bank, general counsel for the Globe Woollen mills, a director of the Utica Steam Cotton mills and the Willowvale Bleaching company, and was interested in many other of the large business enterprises of Central New York. He was a member of the Fort Schuyler club, but gave little attention to club life or to social affairs outside of his own home. He very seldom took upon himself the trial of cases at the circuit, and never as leading counsel, although he sometimes tried cases at special term and before a referee. His ability, however, was shown in a business way rather than as a technical lawyer, and he excelled in his grasp of business propositions, and was a very able adviser in all such matters. He married Cynthia J. Brayton, daughter of Harvey Brayton, in 1863. In 1875 after the death of Judge Charles H. Doolittle it was learned from Governor Dix that he would appoint to the position of Supreme Court judge in the fifth judicial district any member of the bar of Oneida county that the Republican lawyers would agree upon. Several meetings of the Republican members of the bar were held for the purpose of agreeing upon a candidate. These meetings were held in the office of ex-Judge William J. Bacon, but after repeated efforts no candidate could be selected. The position was offered to Mr. Miller by substantially a unanimous voice of the Republican members of the Utica bar, but he declined, giving as reasons that he distrusted his own ability to fill the position to his own satisfaction, and also that it would be a large financial sacrifice to him. It is perhaps enough to say in regard to Mr. Miller's capacity and standing at the bar that he would have been almost the unanimous choice of the Republican members of the bar in the county for justice of the Supreme Court, had he been disposed to accept the position.

JONAS PLATT was born at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., June 30, 1769, studied law in New York, and was admitted to the bar in 1790. The following year he settled in Whitesboro, and in 1791 was appointed clerk of Herkimer county, which position he held to the organization of Oneida county, and then became the first clerk of Oneida county. In 1796 he was elected to the assembly, and in 1799 he was elected a representative in Congress. From 1810 to 1813 he was state senator, and in 1810 was the Federal party's candidate for governor, but was defeated by Daniel D. Tompkins. In the senate he and DeWitt C. Clinton were instrumental in procuring the necessary legislation which established the Erie Canal. Mr. Platt was afterwards appointed one of the judges of the Supreme Court, and was legislated out of office by the constitution of 1821. This constitution was framed by a convention of which Mr. Platt was a member. He returned to the practice of his profession in Utica, and eventually went to New York, where he held a prominent place at the bar. On February 22, 1834, he died at Peru, Clinton county, New York.

DANIEL C. POMEROY was born in Franklin, Delaware county, N. Y., April 1, 1813. He commenced life as a stage driver, and accumulated some means



with which to educate himself and to prepare himself for his profession. He studied law with a Mr. Gorham at Burlington, Otsego county; was admitted to the bar in 1843, and practiced law for a time at Edmeston, Otsego county. In 1883 he came to Rome and became a partner of John R. Elwood. After the dissolution of this partnership he formed another with Henry O. Southworth under the firm name of Pomeroy & Southworth. This partnership continued for sixteen years, and it enjoyed one of the best general law practices of any firm in Oneida county. The name of Pomeroy & Southworth for many years appeared upon the court calendars in more cases than the name of any other firm in the county. Mr. Pomeroy was a trial lawyer, and upon questions of fact he was one of the strongest men in the county. In 1876 he moved from Rome to Utica, and was a partner with his son for about one year, but his health was shattered and he virtually retired from business in 1877, and died October 13, 1878.

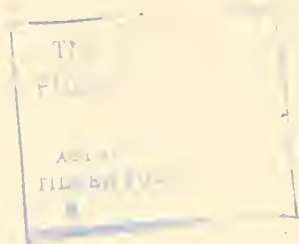
CYRUS D. PRESCOTT was born August 14, 1836, in New Hartford, N. Y. He received his education in that town and in the Utica Free academy, and studied law in the office of O. G. Kellogg of New Hartford and Hurd & Brown of Utica. He was two years employed in the Oneida county clerk's office, afterward in the office of Johnson & Boardman of Rome. He was admitted to the bar in 1859, and became a partner with Mr. Green, under the name of Green & Prescott. In 1867 he entered the employ of a mercantile house in New York as financial clerk, but returned to Rome in 1868 and formed a partnership with D. M. K. Johnson, which firm existed until the death of Mr. Johnson in 1886. For some years thereafter he did business alone, then with Mr. Titus until 1895, when Mr. Titus removed from Rome to Utica, and Mr. Prescott took his son into partnership with him. In 1867 he married Eliza F. Cady of Madison county.

JOHN SAVAGE was born at Salem, Washington county, N. Y., February 22, 1779. He graduated from Union College in 1799, was admitted to the bar, and commenced the practice of his profession in Washington county. Soon after he was appointed district attorney for the northern district of New York. This position he resigned on account of ill health, but was re-appointed afterward. In 1812 he was elected to the assembly, and later served two terms in Congress, 1814-18. He was then appointed comptroller of the state, and occupied that position until 1822, when he was appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court. This office he held from 1823 to 1836. He resigned this position and practiced law for a short time at Utica, and also filled the position of clerk of the Supreme Court. He had returned to Utica after an absence at his old home in Salem. He died at Utica October 19, 1863.

JOHN F. SEYMOUR. One of the most attractive men who has ever appeared at our bar was John F. Seymour. He was born at Pompey Hill, Onondaga county, N. Y., September 21, 1814; was the son of Henry, and a brother of ex-Governor Horatio Seymour. In 1820 his father removed to Utica, and the young man attended a private school in that city until he was prepared for



JAMES S. SHERMAN  
Vice President of the United States



college. He entered Yale College in the class of 1835, and graduated with his class. After this he became a law student with Judge William J. Bacon, and was admitted to the bar in 1839. During the same year he was married to Frances Tappan of New Haven. He spent some time in connection with business enterprises. At one time he was interested with Erastus Corning in the Sault St. Marie Ship Canal, was a director of the New York Central Railroad company, president of the Fox & Wisconsin Improvement company, which had for its object the connecting of the great lakes with the Mississippi River. This company also did the work of connecting the waters of Green Bay, Lake Michigan with Lake Winnebago. In 1862 he became private secretary to his brother, who was then governor of the state. He received the appointment as state agent for the care of wounded soldiers during the war, and served until 1865. He was present at some of the great battles, and was instrumental in alleviating the sufferings of soldiers on these memorable occasions. In 1860 Mr. Seymour's wife died, and in 1865 he married Helen L. Ledyard, who died in 1880. In 1881 he was appointed one of the tax commissioners of the state, and in 1883 one of the commissioners to inquire into the condition of the Onondaga Indians. Mr. Seymour was one of the charity commissioners of Utica from 1873 to '77, and it was during this time the city hospital was built. Mr. Seymour gave much of his time to this enterprise, and to him is due, more perhaps than to any other man, the advance made in Utica for the care of the sick and indigent, in a building erected for that purpose. He was much interested in the subject of perpetuating historic landmarks, and took active interest in commemorating the revolutionary events which occurred in this locality. No one did more than he to carry out the great celebration to commemorate the centennial anniversary of the battle of Oriskany, and it was largely through his endeavor that the splendid monument now stands upon this historic ground. In 1888 his health failed, and he died in Utica on the 22d day of February, 1890. Mr. Seymour's time was so largely taken up with other affairs that he never devoted himself entirely to the practice of his profession. Yet he always enjoyed a fair amount of desirable law business. His cultured mind led him to investigate carefully all cases entrusted to his care, and no one was more conscientious than he in an endeavor to determine the right and to pursue it. For many years he was a partner with George M. Weaver, of Utica, under the firm name of Seymour & Weaver. He was recognized as an able, conscientious and honorable member of the profession. Would that all who practice at the bar possessed the courtesy, fairness and honesty of purpose possessed by Mr. Seymour. It was always gratifying to claim Mr. Seymour as a friend, and all who knew him can but remember him as an unselfish, genial companion, and a friend of mankind.

JAMES S. SHERMAN was born in Utica October 24, 1850; prepared for college at Whitestown seminary, and graduated from Hamilton College in 1878. He studied law in Utica in the office of Beardsley, Cookinham & Burdick; was admitted to the bar in 1880, and formed a partnership with Henry J. Cookinham and John G. Gibson under the firm name of Cookinham, Gibson & Sherman, but the partnership lasted but one year, Mr. Gibson retiring from the firm, which then became Cookinham & Sherman, afterwards Cookinham, Sherman &



Martin, and later Cookinham, Sherman & Cookinham. He was mayor of Utica in 1884; was elected representative in Congress in 1886, and was continually in Congress from that time until 1908, with the exception of one term, when he was defeated by Henry W. Bentley. In 1908 he was the nominee of the Republican party for vice president of the United States, was elected, and took the office the 4th day of March, 1909. Mr. Sherman has devoted his time to politics and financial affairs rather than the law, and in both he has been eminently successful. On the organization of the Utica Trust & Deposit company he was made president, and has ever since held the position. Had he devoted his time and talents to the practice of his profession he certainly would have been eminently successful.

During Mr. Sherman's service in the house of representatives he has been in the first rank among his fellow members. During the discussion on important bills when party feeling ran high, he was generally called to preside, because of his extraordinary ability as a presiding officer. He was an element to be counted with upon the shaping of the policy of the government and of the party to which he belongs. Since his elevation to the vice presidency he has been, perhaps, the most influential of the vice presidents in party councils. So satisfactorily has he presided over the senate that he has won the admiration, not only of every member of his own party, but of his opponents also.

On January 26, 1881, he was married at East Orange, New Jersey, to Miss Carrie Babcock, daughter of Lewis H. Babcock, a prominent lawyer of Utica. They have three children, Sherrill B., born in 1883; Richard U., born in 1884; and Thomas N., born in 1886. Mr. Sherman is a member of a large number of social clubs, among which are the Union League, the Republican and the Transportation clubs of New York city, many of the golf clubs, and he is also a trustee of Hamilton College and many other societies and corporations.

JOSHUA A. SPENCER, perhaps the foremost advocate who ever lived in the United States, was born at Great Barrington, Massachusetts, May 13, 1790; removed to Lenox, Madison county, and from there to Utica. Justice Ward Hunt said of him, "He is like Saul among his brethren; head and shoulders above us all." He started life as a clerk in a country store. He enlisted in the war of 1812, and remained at Sackett's harbor until his term of enlistment had expired. Upon his admission to the bar he commenced practicing law in Madison county. In 1829 he formed a partnership with William H. Maynard and removed to Utica. William H. Seward once said to the son of Mr. Spencer—"Your father is as tall as a giant, has the eye of a hawk, a voice like a lion, and he seizes hold upon the witness and tears him in pieces." In 1841 he was appointed United States district attorney for the northern district of New York. The next year he was elected state senator. In 1848 he was elected mayor of Utica, and about this time he said to his son on returning from a circuit, "I have now tried cases in every county in the state." Mr. Spencer was selected to defend Alexander McLeod in his famous trial at Utica. The case was too easy for the defense to bring out Spencer's best powers, for he was always greatest in a hard case. As an illustration of the interest taken in England in this trial of McLeod, it will be remembered that parliament voted twenty thousand

pounds for his defense. No other lawyer ever lived in central New York who had so great an influence as Mr. Spencer. It was said of him that when he entered the courtroom all business was suspended and all eyes were fixed upon him until he had taken his seat. Judge Bacon says of him: "We shall not soon, if ever, see his equal before that tribunal which . . . it is said it is the object of all government to secure, 'twelve honest men in the jury box.' " He died at Utica April 25, 1857.

HORATIO SEYMOUR was born at Pompey, Onondaga county, N. Y., May 21, 1810. Soon after his father removed to Utica, where young Seymour attended school until he entered what is now Hobart College. He remained in this institution only two years. He then studied law in Utica with Greene C. Bronson and Samuel Beardsley, and was admitted to the bar in 1832. He did not devote himself to the practice of the law, but very soon became prominent in Democratic politics. In 1841 he was elected to the assembly. He was elected mayor of Utica in 1842, and in 1843-44 he was again elected to the assembly, and was speaker during his last year's service. In 1850 he was the candidate of his party for governor, but was defeated. He was renominated in 1852 and elected. He was offered the nomination for governor in 1854, but declined. He was again elected Governor in 1862, and was the candidate of his party in 1864, but failed of election. In 1868 he was the Democratic candidate for president of the United States, but was defeated by General Grant. Governor Seymour was very highly esteemed, and although personally extremely popular, as a candidate for public office he never succeeded in getting the full support of his own party in the community in which he resided. He died February 12, 1886. It was as a politician and not as a lawyer that he won celebrity.

JOHN THOMAS SPRIGGS was born in Northamptonshire, England, May 5, 1820. He came to this country with his father in 1836, and settled in Whitesboro. The young man desired a college course, and he prepared for and entered Hamilton College, where he remained for two years. He then left, and for a time studied law at Holland Patent, but he decided to complete his college course, and went to Union, and graduated with the class of 1848. He then studied law in Utica, and after being admitted formed a partnership with Thomas Flandrau. At that time Rome was relatively much more important in the county than Utica, and Mr. Spriggs decided to remove to that town, which he did and formed a partnership with Thomas G. Frost. This business arrangement lasted until 1859, when the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Spriggs returned to Utica. In 1862 he formed a partnership with Richard McInerow, and this partnership continued until 1870, when it was dissolved, and Mr. Spriggs took as a partner E. D. Matthews. This partnership lasted for several years, but as the son of Mr. Spriggs had become a lawyer the partnership was dissolved, and a new firm formed of J. T. and F. B. Spriggs; this firm continued down to the death of Mr. Spriggs, which occurred in Utica December 23, 1888. Mr. Spriggs, aside from his law practice, gave a good deal of attention to politics, and was from the time he commenced active business life a potent factor in the Democratic party of Oneida county. He was appointed district attorney in 1853

to fill a vacancy. In 1854 he was elected county treasurer, and in 1868 he was elected mayor of Utica, and in the same year he was the Democratic candidate for representative in Congress, but was defeated by Alexander H. Bailey of Rome. In 1878 he was the Democratic candidate for representative in Congress, and he was again defeated by Cyrus D. Prescott of Rome. In 1882 he was again a candidate by the same party for the same position, and was elected over Samuel H. Fox, a glass manufacturer of Durhamville, N. Y. This election of Mr. Spriggs was owing to a division in the Republican party into the factions known as the "Stalwarts" and "Half Breeds." The division arose in consequence of the opposition of Roscoe Conkling, then a United States senator, to President Garfield, over the desire on Conkling's part to control the Federal patronage in the state of New York. In 1884 Mr. Spriggs was again renominated for the same position, and was elected over Henry J. Cookinham by reason of a split in the Republican party. James G. Blaine had been nominated for the presidency, and was opposed by Roscoe Conkling because of an old quarrel between them. Oneida county was Mr. Conkling's residence; the congressional district consisted of Oneida and Lewis counties at this time. Grover Cleveland was the candidate of the Democratic party for the presidency, and the friends of Mr. Conkling in Oneida county supported the Democratic ticket in that county. This resulted in Mr. Cleveland receiving a majority in Oneida county, whereas it should have given a Republican majority of from two to three thousand and Mr. Spriggs was supported by the same persons who supported Mr. Cleveland. In 1886 Mr. Spriggs was again the candidate for representative in Congress, but was defeated by James S. Sherman. Mr. Spriggs, although prominent in Democratic politics, never was what could be termed a leader. He was a manipulator of caucuses and conventions, possessed a good deal of shrewdness, but in his political discussions and speeches he never entered into argument of principles to any extent. Although he manifested shrewdness and ability in the trial of cases, yet he at times resorted to methods, in order to win verdicts, that would not be approved in a court of ethics.

ALVIN STEWART was born at South Granville, Washington county, N. Y., September 1, 1790. After his graduation from Vermont University he went to Canada, and taught school there for a time. Mr. Stewart was in his early life what might be called a "rover," going from place to place, teaching school or doing anything to obtain a livelihood, but finally he settled down to the practice of law. He was in Canada at the time of the breaking out of the war in 1812, and, as he could not remain there, came back to the states and found himself at Middleboro, N. Y., where he was arrested as a spy. At the time a regiment of soldiers was located there, and Stewart thought his arrest a joke played on him by the soldiers; he, however, soon ascertained that it was a very serious matter. A drumhead court martial was convened to try him, and it was a very solemn court until Stewart was permitted to speak for himself. He said afterwards that he would give almost anything he had if he could reproduce the speech that he made to this court. He remembered beginning in the following manner: "I think myself happy, O president of this court martial, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee, touching all things whereof I am accused



HORATIO SEYMOUR





of these soldiers." He then proceeded to speak for an hour or more, and so amused the court that it broke up in hilarious manner, and the result was not only his acquittal, but he was the hero of the occasion. He finally settled in Utica, and at once took front rank at the bar. He was not only a great lawyer, but a great orator. His sense of humor was remarkable, and he used it to the very best advantage. He was an intense anti-slavery man, and his services were demanded wherever a legal question arose touching the subject. Perhaps the greatest legal argument he ever made was before the Supreme Court of New Jersey in the case of the State against John A. Post. In this case the constitutionality of an act of the state of New Jersey touching slavery was involved. Luther R. Marsh, speaking of the humor of Mr. Stewart, says: "I have seen the Supreme Court room, with Nelson, Bronson & Cowen on the bench, in an uproar at his manner of reading a dry affidavit, and the judges themselves unable to maintain their gravity." In the great excitement over the slavery question in Utica, Stewart was foremost in the advocacy of human rights. He presided at the Anti-Slavery convention that was held October, 21, 1835, and which was broken up by mob violence led on by some of the foremost citizens, because men dared to speak in favor of human freedom. The delegates to the convention were obliged to flee the town, Mr. Stewart's house was barricaded and armed men protected it from the mob. The services which he rendered to the cause of freedom cannot be well overestimated. He died May 1, 1849.

HENRY R. STORRS was born at Middletown, Connecticut, September 3, 1787. He graduated from Yale College in 1804, and was admitted to the bar in 1807. He practiced law first in Champion, afterwards at Whitesboro, and later at Utica, N. Y. He was judge of the court of common pleas for five years, and one year was chief judge. He was elected a representative in Congress in 1819, and also served in the same capacity from 1823 to 1831. During his entire congressional career he ranked with the ablest men in either house of Congress. He was one of the best debaters in the house of representatives, and was classed among the foremost lawyers in the country. On the expiration of his last term in Congress he removed from Utica to New York, and practiced law in that city, where he occupied a very prominent place at the bar. He died July 29, 1873, at New Haven, Connecticut.

SAMUEL A. TALCOTT was born at Hartford, Connecticut, December 31, 1789. He graduated from Williams College in 1809, at the age of nineteen, and studied law with Thomas R. Gold of Whitesboro, this county. After his admission to the bar he removed to Lowville, N. Y., and in 1816 he removed to Utica, and from there to New Hartford. In February, 1821, he was appointed attorney general. After the expiration of his term as attorney general he removed to New York city, where he practiced law until his death in 1836. Mr. Talcott was, unquestionably, one of the greatest lawyers who has ever lived in this country. Chief justice Marshall said of him: "His argument before the Supreme Court of the United States in the Sailors Snug Harbor case has not been equalled in that court since the days of William Pinckney."

DANIEL E. WAGER was born in Jefferson county, N. Y., on the 8th day of June, 1823. He was educated in the common schools and Jefferson county institute at Watertown. He then read law with Joshua Moore at Watertown, and afterwards with William and Charles Tracy at Utica, and later still in the office of Comstock & Beach in Rome. He was admitted to the bar in 1850, and formed a partnership with H. T. Utley at Rome. This firm existed for some years, when Mr. Utley removed to Waterville. In 1852 he was elected special county judge on the Democratic ticket. In 1854 he was one of the editors of the *Rome Sentinel*, and in 1855 became one of its proprietors. In 1857 Mr. Wager was made postmaster of Rome, and held the office for four years. In 1860 he returned to the practice of his profession. In 1872 he became a partner with Mr. Beach and Bailey. Later Mr. Wager was a partner with Mr. Beach alone, and this firm existed down to the death of Mr. Beach. Mr. Wager was elected special county judge in 1880. He was in every sense an estimable lawyer, with a thorough knowledge of the fundamental principles of law; with good judgement and honesty of purpose he devoted himself to the practice of his profession. He was modest and retiring, and therefore did not attain such public position as his talents and acquirements entitled him to, but he performed the duties entrusted to him with such ability and devotion to the ends of justice that all who knew him had the utmost confidence, both in his ability and in his judgement. He gave much attention to matters of local history, and was one of the best informed men in the county pertaining to the history of men and institutions in and about the county of Oneida. His name will ever be held in high esteem among the bar of this county. He edited a history of Oneida county, and also a history of Rome.

NATHAN WILLIAMS was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, December 19, 1773. He removed to Utica about 1797, and was the first lawyer to settle permanently in Utica. He was district attorney for the sixth district of the state from 1801 to 1803. He also served in the same capacity for Oneida county from 1818 to 1821. He was elected a representative in Congress in 1805, and was an assemblyman in 1816-18-19; was a delegate to the constitutional convention in 1821, and was appointed judge of the circuit court in April, 1823, but resigned that position some years afterward, and removed to Geneva, N. Y. While residing there he was appointed clerk of the Supreme Court. He died September 25, 1835.

OTHNIEL S. WILLIAMS was the son of Othniel Williams, and was born at Killingworth, Conn., November 22, 1813. He removed with his father to Waterville, N. Y., in 1814, and to Clinton in 1820. In his fourteenth year he entered the sophomore class of Hamilton College, and graduated in 1831. For two years he was a tutor in the family of Mr. Gibson in Virginia. In the fall of 1836 he returned from Virginia, and was admitted as an attorney in 1837, and as a counselor in 1840. On September 6, 1843, he married Delia, the daughter of Professor Charles Avery of Hamilton College. For a time he was an instructor in modern languages in the college, and showed great proficiency in French, Spanish and Italian. Mr. Williams was appointed judge of the court of common

pleas in 1846, and in 1847 he was made a trustee of Hamilton College. After the new constitution of the state was adopted in 1848 he was elected surrogate of Oneida county, and re-elected in 1852. In 1850 he was made the treasurer of Hamilton College, and retained this position until his death. In 1871 he received the degree of LL.D. During many years of his life he was identified with many public charities, business corporations and enterprises for the advancement of his town and county. He was a promoter of the Utica, Clinton & Binghamton Railroad, one of its directors, its vice president, and for many years, and up to his death, he was its president. He took great interest in college affairs, and was one of the founders of the Alpha Delta Phi society. At a meeting of the Oneida county bar held after the death of Mr. Williams, Professor Theodore W. Dwight said of him, "He was not only honest, able and patriotic, but a good lawyer." Mr. Williams was a careful and painstaking lawyer, well versed in the principles of law, conscientious and fair in his practice, and when called upon to render decisions as judge, surrogate or referee he did it intelligently, fairly, and was seldom reversed upon appeal. He died *Jan* having the respect of the entire bar of Central New York.

JOHN C. DAVIES was born in Utica, January 19, 1858. He was educated in public schools and seminaries, and graduated from Hamilton College Law school. He was admitted to the bar, and opened a law office in Camden in 1879, where he has since resided. In 1885 he was elected to the New York Assembly. In 1894 he was appointed Deputy Attorney General by Theodore E. Hancock, Attorney General of the State; he held this position for five years. In 1898 he was elected Attorney General of the State and reelected two years thereafter. During his services as Attorney General many important questions came up to be cared for in his department of the state. He was in close touch with Governor Roosevelt and Governor Odell, with whom he was associated as a state officer. He was nominated for justice of the Supreme Court in 1902, but was defeated in consequence of a division in the Republican party. In 1894 Mr. Davies was elected a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention, and served on important committees in that distinguished body. In 1905 he was appointed a member of the State Gas and Electric Commission. Mr. Davies married Elma B. Dorrance, daughter of John G. Dorrance, of Camden, September 8, 1890, and they have five children: Margery Ellen, born September 26, 1891; Gladys Esther, born January 16, 1893; John Dorrance, born October 1, 1896; Russell Johnson, born March 30, 1902; and Theodore Roosevelt, May 29, 1903.

WILLIAM E. SCRIPTURE, one of the justices of the Supreme court of the fifth judicial district, was born November 2, 1843, in Westmoreland, Oneida county, N. Y., and was a son of Parker A. Scripture and Harriet Standish Snow. He was educated at Whitestown seminary and Hamilton college, studied law at the Albany Law school, and was admitted to the bar in 1867. He then entered the office of Beach & Bailey in Rome as managing clerk. In 1868 he opened an office in Canastota in partnership with a Mr. Hutchins, but in the fall of that year he returned to Rome and commenced practice in that city. He afterward had as a partner Homer T. Fowler, and for a time he had as partners George



H. Weaver, E. M. Pavey, and Oswald P. Backus. He at once acquired a large law practice, and was extremely successful in the trial of cases at the circuit. Any lawyer who had occasion to try a case against him found very soon he had an antagonist worthy of the steel of almost any person at the bar. His ability to grasp the facts and to present the salient ones to a jury was remarkable. His memory was excellent, and, without making copious notes of the evidence, he was able to recall every important fact in a case, even though it might take days or even weeks to adduce the evidence. He was appointed postmaster of Rome by President Harrison, and served until he was nominated for Supreme court in 1895. He was elected and served fourteen years, was renominated, but defeated through the influence of the corporations of the district. Since he ceased to be judge he has practiced his profession in Rome. He was married to Emma C. Goodwin in August, 1867, and has had seven children, May Standish, Mina E., Ella G., Emma C., Ruth, Parker F., and William E., Jr., two of whom, Emma C. and Ruth are now dead.

PASCAL C. J. DEANGELIS was born in Holland Patent, January 27, 1850. He was the son of William W. and Elizabeth Burlingame DeAngelis, and grandson of Pascal C. J. DeAngelis, one of the earliest settlers in the town of Trenton. His grandfather took part in the naval service of the Revolutionary war, was captured by the British and confined in Dartmoor prison. Young DeAngelis was prepared for college at Cary seminary, Oakfield, and entered Hobart in the class of 1871. He left Hobart and entered Cornell university in the same class, and graduated from that institution in 1871 with the degree of A. B. He then read law at Towanda, Pa., and was admitted to the bar in 1873. He was admitted in New York state in 1875, and commenced practice in Utica. He was for a time a law partner with William A. Matteson, under the firm name of Matteson & DeAngelis. He acquired a good practice, was counsel for some large institutions, and so commended himself to the public that in 1896 he was nominated and elected justice of the Supreme court. Judge DeAngelis was manager of the State Lunatic asylum, now the State hospital, for seven years, from 1886 to 1893; was one of the school commissioners of the city of Utica for two terms, 1900-1906. He married Annie, daughter of William B. Jackson of Utica, and has four children: Pascal C. J.; Charles, Marshall and Annena.

In a class with these men who filled high official positions are many others who, perhaps, by reason of natural gifts, acquirements and conscientiousness were their equals, but who never sought, or, if they sought, never obtained high judicial office. Such were John G. Crocker, John H. Edmunds of Utica; G. Harrison Lynch of Rome, and others.

There was also a large class of lawyers who may be called all-round practitioners. They were well equipped in most branches of the law, and having a general practice they had no time, and perhaps no inclination to devote energy enough to any particular branch to excel in it and thereby gain fame. They chose to cover a large field and stand well in many branches of the practice. In this class of honorable men are: George W. Adams, Daniel Ball, Joseph R. Swan, Peter Davies, Alexander T. Goodwin, Richard Melnerow, Eaton J. Rich-

ardson, Joel Willard, N. Curtis White, Robert O. Jones and Leslie W. Kernan of Utica; K. Carroll, Edward L. Stevens, Henry O. Southworth, Charles N. White of Rome; Walter Ballou and Leander W. Fisk of Boonville; George K. Carroll and Stephen Cromwell of Camden; Joseph S. Avery and James McCabe of Clinton; Syllas L. Snyder of Taberg; and Edwin Lamb of Waterville.

After entering the profession most men soon discover that some certain branch of the law suits them better than others, and they seek its pursuit. This has in the past, and will in the future, cause a large number to devote themselves to what may be called the commercial side of the profession. These attorneys never devote themselves to study sufficiently to become very learned in the law. They, instead, give their time to business transactions, becoming acquainted with men, and looking up law business, and in these pursuits they are very effective. Their advice is sought as to the expediency of purchasing property, making investments, entering into contracts, undertaking business enterprises, but not often upon difficult questions of law. Foremost in this class was Orsamus B. Matteson, who, in his prime, was one of the most efficient business men that the city of Utica has ever known. It is probable that the largest commercial law business ever done by any firm in the county was by Matteson & Doolittle, of which partnership Charles H. Doolittle was the junior member. It was a popular saying of the day that "Matteson knew how to get the business, and Doolittle knew how to do it."

Then there were Edward Brayton, James W. Bond, George Clarence Churchill, Charles M. Dennison, Henry A. Doolittle, Edmond A. Graham, Hiram Hurlburt, Burton D. Hurlburt, Arthur B. Johnson, Nicholas E. Kernan, James F. Mann, Addison C. Miller and Andrew J. McIntosh. Among this number are some of the most esteemed citizens of the community. Some of them, by their capacity in grasping business propositions, accumulated fortunes in a legitimate way, and not by blind pools, illegal combinations of corporate interests, or accidental success in speculation. Who would ask for better advisors in ordinary business transactions than Addison C. Miller or Nicholas E. Kernan? So might I ask in regard to others of the number who acted well their parts as business men.

In passing over the list, names suggest to us faces of those we once saw on our streets, but which no longer appear. They lived, as most men do, without accomplishing any great result, but some of them led conscientious and pure lives and are entitled to our lasting respect. There were William R. Anthony, Rufus C. Baker, Charles L. DeGeorgia, John D. Griffith, James F. Hurley, Morvin M. Jones, William J. Kernan, Rutger B. Miller, Jr., Eugene Stearns, Richard Schroeppel, Elakin J. Stoddard, Isaac J. Tripp and J. Frank Rogers of Utica; James Parks, Stephen VanDresar, Joseph Porter and Delos M. White of Rome, and James W. Cummings of Clinton.

There has been during the last quarter century a class of lawyers among us which may be called *sui generis*. Among these were O. Arthur White, Patrick F. Bulger, Charles J. Everett, Thomas E. Kinney and David C. Wolcott.

We have had also another class of attorneys which may be called only trial lawyers. They were always at the circuit, and their business consisted largely

of the trial of ordinary cases and of criminal practice. No circuit or trial term of a criminal court was held during their respective lives except that conspicuous among the members of the bar in attendance were Dexter E. Pomeroy, J. Thomas Spriggs of Utica; Milton D. Barnett, Daniel C. Pomeroy and Joseph I. Sayles of Rome. Of these, in ordinary trials, particularly for the defense, Mr. Spriggs easily outclassed the others. Possessed of a genial disposition, great shrewdness, and having a fair equipment of general acquirements, but little knowledge of the law, he was always a dangerous adversary before a jury. He possessed the power to discern quickly the weak points of his antagonist upon questions of fact, and used them to the very best advantage. For the plaintiff, or for the defense in a criminal case where the crime was murder or some other of great magnitude, Daniel C. Pomeroy ranked high in the class. He made no pretense of having a thorough knowledge of the law; he trusted this part of the practice to others, but in arousing the sympathies or prejudices of a jury he was ever effective. In presenting his case to the jury he was always interesting, and at times his speech rose to real eloquence.

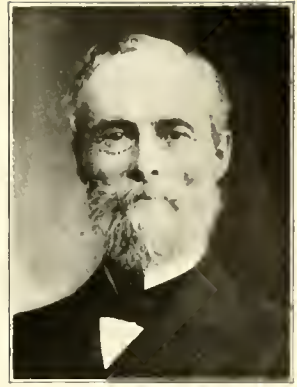
From the fact that during the last thirty-six years four men have practiced at the Oneida bar, who attained greater reputation than any others, we are constrained to class them by themselves. Three were United States senators, and the fourth a justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Francis Kernan, Ward Hunt, Henry A. Foster and Roscoe Conkling.

A marked change has occurred in regard to the practice of the law within the last quarter of a century. Many questions which gave rise to litigation have been settled, and business men have become wiser in the present day than they were in the past in regard to litigation. Lawyers of the first class advise settlement wherever it is possible, and this has had a marked effect upon the number of cases litigated. Many years ago assault and battery and other like cases were tried at almost every term of the court. Now they are substantially unknown, and litigation over such matters has almost ceased. There has, however, been a large increase of litigation in a direction that was not frequent until recent times, i. e., damage suits against railroad companies and other large corporations. Many of these suits have little merit, and are frequently tried by lawyers who do not stand well at the bar. A new term has been invented to designate these lawyers, and they are known to the profession as "ambulance chasers." As an illustration of the methods pursued by this class of lawyers one will suffice. A short time since a man was killed near Utica on the New York Central Railroad. He was a resident of Utica, and before his body was buried twelve lawyers called at the house and tendered their valuable (?) services to the widow in her great distress. The lawyers came from as far west as Buffalo, and as far east as Albany. This was so annoying that it was found necessary to deny admittance to the house any man unless he was known to the family of the deceased. The presiding judge of the appellate division of the Supreme Court invariably, before a class is sworn in after examination for admission to the bar, warns them against this kind of law practice. It can be said of the bar of Oneida county that it can congratulate itself upon the fact that few of its members can be placed in this class. It can also be safely said of the bar of Oneida county that at the pres-





PHILO GRIDLEY  
Justice Supreme Court



MILTON H. MERWIN  
Justice Supreme Court



ALFRED C. COXE  
Judge of the United States Cir-  
cuit Court, Second Circuit



WILLIAM E. SCRIPTURE  
Justice Supreme Court



PASCAL C. J. DE ANGELIS  
Justice Supreme Court



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ent time, as well as in the past, it ranks among the foremost of the state both as to ability and moral worth. The members of this noble profession within our favored county have faithfully protected the rights of the plaintiff and defendant, and have endeavored, to the best of their ability, to have justice meted out to parties litigant. At the close of this year, there are within the county 207 practicing attorneys, who are located as follows: Boonville, 6; Camden, 6; Clinton, 1; Holland Patent, 2; Lee Center, 1; Remsen, 1; Rome, 40; Utica, 144; Vernon, 1; Waterville, 5.

HENRY J. COGGESHALL was born April 28, 1845, at Waterville; was educated in the Waterville seminary; studied law in that village, was admitted to the bar and commenced practicing there. He very early entered politics, and gave very little attention after that to his profession. He was at first assistant district attorney; was elected to the legislature in 1872; to the office of county clerk in 1879, and in 1883 was elected to the state senate, in which capacity he served for about twenty years, having been a member of the legislature longer than any other person who ever resided in Oneida county. He was a Republican, and was elected by that party except on one occasion. He was defeated for the nomination for senator in the Republican convention; bolted the convention; was nominated by the bolters; adopted by the Democratic party, and elected against Frederick G. Weaver, the regular Republican candidate. He was very successful in procuring the passage of bills concerning local affairs. He was personally friendly with his political opponents as well as with Republicans, and would do anything he consistently could for a resident of his district, whether friend or foe. He was one of the best platform speakers in the state, and his services were in great demand in every political canvass. He was eloquent and persuasive rather than argumentative, and had a view of humor that enabled him, if he so elected, to keep an audience in roars of laughter during an entire evening. He had not accumulated money, and died, virtually without means.

Following is a list of all the judicial officers from Oneida county from its organization to 1912:

#### CHIEF JUSTICES SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE

John Savage, January 29, 1823.

Greene C. Bronson, March 5, 1845.

Samuel Beardsley, June 29, 1847. He served as puisne justice from February 20, 1844.

#### JUDGES OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

Nathan Williams, April 21, 1823.

Samuel Beardsley, April 12, 1834.

Hiram Denio, May 7, 1834.

Philo Gridley, July 17, 1838.

## JUDGES OF COMMON PLEAS AND COUNTY COURTS

1798, March 22—Jedediah Sanger of Whitestown, first judge; Hugh White and David Ostram of Whitestown, James Dean of Westmoreland, and George Huntington of Rome, judges.

1801, January 28—Silas Stone of Lowville, judge.

1801, August 21—Messrs. Sanger, White, Dean, Ostram and Huntington, re-appointed, with Thomas Hart additional.

1802, March 13—Nathan Sage and Henry Coffeen of Redfield.

1803, March 31—Needham Maynard.

1804, April 3—Chauncey Gridley.

1804, July 3—Messrs. Sanger, Dean, Ostram, Huntington, Sage, Coffeen, Maynard and Gridley, re-appointed.

1805, February 15—Messrs. Sanger, Dean, Sage, Maynard, Ostram, Coffeen and Gridley, re-appointed; March 25, Samuel Dill; April 8, Apollos Cooper, additional.

1808, March 22—Messrs. Sanger, Dean, Gridley, Sage, Dill, Cooper, re-appointed, and Joseph Jennings and Jarvis Pike additional.

1810, March 5—Morris S. Miller, first judge; Jedediah Sanger, Henry McNiell of Paris, Abram Camp of Whitestown, and Timothy W. Wood.

1813, February 23—Morris S. Miller, James Dean, David Ostram, Henry McNiell, George Brayton, Richard Sanger, Jesse Curtiss, Gerrit G. Lansing, Benjamin Wright, John Storrs and Peter Pratt.

1814, April 5—Messrs. Miller, Dean, Ostram, McNiell, Curtiss, Lansing, Wright, Storrs and Pratt re-appointed; and Levi Carpenter, Jr., and Frederick Stanley, additional.

1815, April 15—Morris S. Miller, Joseph Jennings, Solomon Wolcott, Prosper Rudd, Daniel Ashley, Peter Pratt, James S. Kip, Sherman Barnes, Thomas H. Hamilton, Asahel Curtiss, Charles Wylie and Joseph Grant.

1818, April 24—Messrs. Miller, Wylie, Grant and Hamilton, with Ezekiel Bacon additional.

1821, March 21—Messrs. Miller, Grant and Hamilton, with Truman Enos and Joshua Hathaway additional.

1823, February 3—Messrs. Miller, Enos, Hathaway and Grant, with Samuel Jones additional.

1824, November 22—Samuel Beardsley, first judge, in place of Morris S. Miller, deceased.

1825, March 9—Henry R. Storrs, in place of Samuel Beardsley, who declined the appointment.

1826, April 5—James Dean (son of former Judge Dean) in place of Truman Enos, who resigned upon his election to the state senate.

1828, February 5—Messrs. Hathaway, Grant and Jones, re-appointed.

1830, January 15—Chester Hayden, first judge, and Israel Stoddard.

1831, April 8—Reuben Tower of Sangerfield, in place of James Dean, whose term had expired.

1832, February 10—Nathan Kimball of Augusta, in place of Reuben Tower, resigned.

1833, February 6—John P. Sherwood of Vernon, and Arnon Comstock of Western, in place of Messrs. Jones and Hathaway, whose terms had expired.

1835, January 23—Chester Hayden of Utica, first judge, and Israel Stoddard, re-appointed.

1837, February 21—Nathan Kimball, re-appointed.

1838, February 2—Pomroy Jones of Westmoreland, in place of J. P. Sherwood, resigned; and March 9, Arnon Comstock, re-appointed.

1840, February 2—Fortune C. White of Whitestown, first judge, vice Hayden; and April 14, Seth B. Roberts of Rome, vice Stoddard.

1843, February 10—Chester Hayden and Amos Woodworth of Florence, vice Messrs. Kimball and Comstock, whose terms had expired, and Pomroy Jones, re-appointed.

1845, February 21—P. Sheldon Root of Utica, first judge, vice White; and April 14, Ebenezer Robbins of Lee, vice Roberts.

1846, May 12—Othniel S. Williams of Kirkland, vice Hayden.

#### JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Ward Hunt, September, 1872.

#### JUDGES OF CIRCUIT COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES

Alexander S. Johnson, October, 1875.

Alfred C. Coxe, 1903.

#### JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT OF UNITED STATES

Alfred C. Coxe, May 4, 1882.

Clerks of the Circuit court of the United States for the Northern district of New York, and District court of the same district, resident in Oneida county. By an act dividing the Northern district the clerk of the United States Circuit court was also made the clerk of the District court.

Augustus C. Boyee, from June 14, 1849 to August 1, 1870.

Charles Mason, from August 1, 1870 to his death.

William H. Bright, from June 30, 1879 to July 1, 1883.

William S. Doolittle, from July 1, 1883 to date.

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Samuel Beardsley, 1823.

Henry A. Foster, 1853.

#### UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

VanRensselaer Weaver, 1910.

#### JUDGES OF COURT OF APPEALS

Alexander S. Johnson, appointed November 4, 1851.

Hiram Denio, appointed June 23, 1853.

Hiram Denio, elected November, 1857.

Ward Hunt, elected November 7, 1865.



## COMMISSIONER OF APPEALS

Ward Hunt, July 5, 1870.

Alexander S. Johnson, January 7, 1873.

## JUSTICES OF SUPREME COURT

Philo Gridley, 1847.

William J. Bacon, 1853 and 1861.

Henry A. Foster, 1863.

Charles H. Doolittle, 1869.

Milton H. Merwin, 1874 and 1888.

William E. Scripture, 1895.

Pascal C. J. DeAngelis, 1907.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL

Samuel A. Talcott, July 8, 1819.

Greene C. Bronson, February 27, 1829.

Samuel Beardsley, January 12, 1836.

John C. Davies, November, 1898 and 1900.

## DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Charles J. Everett, 1880.

John D. McMahon, 1892.

John E. Mason, 1899.

Louis M. Martin, 1900.

Everett E. Risley, 1909.

August Merrill, 1911.

## COUNTY JUDGES

Jedediah Sanger, appointed 1798.

Morris S. Miller, appointed 1810.

Samuel Beardsley, appointed 1824.

Henry R. Storrs, appointed 1825.

Chester Hayden, appointed 1830.

Fortune C. White, appointed 1840.

P. Sheldon Root, appointed 1845.

P. Sheldon Root, elected 1847.

George W. Smith, elected 1859.

Joel Willard, elected 1867.

Alexander H. Bailey, elected 1871.

William B. Bliss, elected 1874.

William B. Sutton, elected 1880.

Isaac J. Evans, elected 1886.

Watson T. Dunmore, elected 1892.

George E. Pritchard, elected 1904.

Frederick H. Hazard, elected 1910.

## SPECIAL COUNTY JUDGES

In 1846 the constitution authorized special county judges.

David E. Wager, elected 1852.

George Harrison, elected 1855.

Kiron Carroll, elected 1861.

George H. Lynch, elected 1867.

William B. Bliss, elected 1870-1873.

Robert O. Jones, appointed to fill vacancy, 1874.

Robert O. Jones, elected 1875.

William H. Bright, elected 1878.

Daniel E. Wager, elected 1880.

Isaac J. Evans, elected 1883.

Watson T. Dunmore, elected 1886, 1889.

Rudolphus C. Briggs, elected 1892-95.

George T. Davis, elected 1898-1901.

Willis W. Byam, elected 1904-1907.

Walter G. Shankenbury, elected 1910.

## SURROGATES

Arthur Breese, March 19, 1798.

Joshua Hathaway, March 23, 1808.

Erastus Clark, February 23, 1813.

Greene C. Bronson, April 13, 1819.

Joshua Hathaway, February 19, 1821.

Henry A. Foster, March 31, 1827.

Alanson Bennett, January 12, 1831.

Henry A. Foster, January 27, 1835.

John Stryker, August 22, 1839.

Othniel S. Williams, June, 1847.

Henry M. Burehard, November, 1855.

Joseph S. Avery, November, 1863-1869.

Stephen H. VanDresar, November, 1877.

William B. Bliss, November, 1883.

William H. Bright, November, 1889.

Henry W. Bentley, appointed 1894.

Frederiek M. Calder, November, 1894-1900.

Michael H. Sexton, November, 1906.

## SPECIAL SURROGATE

Ralph McIntosh, elected 1852.

Nelson B. Stevens, elected 1855.

Ralph McIntosh, elected 1858.

David T. Jenkins, elected 1861.

Eugene Stearns, elected 1867.

Theodore Avery, elected 1870.

Henry J. Cookinham, elected 1873.  
Marcus D. Raymond, elected 1874.  
Elliott S. Williams, elected 1877.  
Emmett J. Ball, elected 1878, 1881.  
John D. F. Stone, elected 1884.  
H. C. Sholes, elected 1887.  
James P. Olney, elected 1890.  
Elliot O. Worden, elected 1893, 1896.  
Willis W. Byam, elected 1899, 1902.  
Elijah T. Garlick, elected 1905.  
Edward L. O'Donnell, elected 1908.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEYS

Thomas R. Gold, appointed from February 26, 1797 to August 20, 1801.  
Nathan Williams, appointed 1801.  
Joseph Kirkland, appointed 1813.  
Thomas H. Hubbard, appointed 1816.  
Nathan Williams, appointed 1818.  
Samuel Beardsley, appointed 1821.  
Hiram Denio, appointed 1825.  
Ichabod C. Baker, appointed 1834.  
Timothy Jenkins, appointed 1840.  
Calvert Comstock, appointed 1845.  
Calvert Comstock, elected 1847.  
Roscoe Conkling, elected 1850.  
Samuel B. Garvin, elected 1850.  
J. Thomas Spriggs, elected 1853.  
Henry T. Utley, elected 1853.  
Jairus H. Munger, elected 1856.  
Hiram T. Jenkins, elected 1859, 1862, 1865.  
Daniel Ball, elected 1868.  
Daniel C. Stoddard, elected 1871.  
Milton D. Barnett, elected 1874-1877.  
William A. Matteson, elected 1880-1883.  
Thomas S. Jones, elected 1886-1889.  
George S. Klock, elected 1892-1895.  
Timothy Curtin, elected 1898-1901.  
Emerson M. Willis, elected 1904-1907.  
Bradley Fuller, elected 1910.

## CHAPTER XXII

### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

In the first settlement in Oneida county as elsewhere barter was the rule of trade. The farmer sold his products to the storekeeper for supplies for the family, and the like exchange was made by the retail dealer with the wholesale merchant. Very little cash was in circulation, and this was in silver of either English or Spanish mintage. The more thrifty keepers of stores and a few farmers were able to lend in a small way to the needy to tide them over until harvest. They would receive deposits from any who had savings hoarded. Activities grew beyond reliance on such aids or on loans from Albany or New York. The Manhattan Company, for which Aaron Burr had secured a charter to supply water from New York but was from the outset a bank, saw here an inviting field, and in 1809 sent Montgomery Hunt to establish a branch in Utica, the first bank in the county. June 1, 1812, a charter was secured for the Bank of Utica, which opened with a capital of \$500,000 out of \$1,000,000 authorized, and was practically the successor of the Manhattan branch bank. Mr. Hunt was cashier and the chief officer, with James S. Kip, president, and a board of directors of leading citizens. Henry Huntington of Rome was elected president at the close of the first year, and up to his death in 1845 drove from his residence regularly to meet with the directors. Then Thomas Walker was elected president, followed in 1863 by Benjamin N. Huntington. In 1876 Publius V. Rogers, who had, as cashier since 1853 by his ability and command of the confidence of the business community, earned the promotion, was advanced to the presidency. Until his death in 1895 he set a standard as a faithful, expert financier not surpassed in this part of the state, and built up the institution to the forefront of national banks of the interior. Charles B. Rogers has since served as president. Until 1865 the bank conducted its affairs under the laws of New York, but in that year took advantage of the national statutes under the style of the First National Bank of Utica. John A. Goodale was cashier after P. V. Rogers. Henry R. Williams is now a vice president and the cashier.

Alexander B. Johnson, in 1814, was appointed a state director in the Bank of Utica, but was not in full accord with Cashier Hunt. He devised a rival institution, but it was not easy to secure a charter from the legislature, as was then necessary. For that reason Mr. Johnson projected the Utica Insurance company with capital of \$500,000, and framed the law passed in 1816 so as to cover the right to carry on banking. That business was entered upon with Mr. Johnson as secretary and treasurer and real manager, with prominent men in the direction. The subterfuge aroused bitter opposition; the legislature



amended the statutes so that the insurance company could not be a bank. It had put out notes for \$100,000, some for fractions of a dollar, and its loans were \$300,000. August 3, 1818, after re-insuring its policies and providing for the payment of its obligations the company closed its affairs.

Meanwhile in 1815 the Ontario Bank of Canandaigua had opened a branch in Utica, with Col. Benjamin Walker president, and next Arthur Breese. The capital was \$300,000, later \$500,000. In 1819 Alexander B. Johnson was chosen to the presidency and was supported by some of the most eminent Uticans, and so continued, until Edmund A. Wetmore was made receiver in 1857. On the end of the charter of the parent bank in 1855 the Utica branch became the Ontario bank. Mr. Johnson was the most literary of the bankers of the county, an author of wide repute on philosophical as well as financial subjects. Mr. Hunt and he were the pioneers in local banking, rivals while both lived, and men of mark in their profession.

The Bank of Whitestown was organized in 1839 with \$100,000 capital under S. N. Dexter as president, who was succeeded by F. B. Henderson. After a generation its business was closed out on the expiration of the charter. Israel J. Gray was the last cashier.

The Bank of Rome started in 1832 with a capital of \$100,000, had for its first president John Stryker, and was fully liquidated when its charter expired in 1863.

The application to the legislature for a charter for the Oneida Bank was strenuously opposed, but the act was passed May 13, 1836. A commission to distribute the stock among the subscribers was headed by A. G. Dauby, but the result did not please everybody, and the amount of capital, \$450,000, was not equal to the demands. A robbery of \$108,000 of its cash from its vaults before opening for business caused a shock, and only a part of the money was ever recovered. But the board of directors was composed of citizens who commanded confidence, and the bank starting with A. G. Dauby as president for three months, and then securing the services of Alfred Munson in that office, made firm its place in local finance. Until his decease in 1854 he was the controlling force in the institution. Charles A. Mann was selected to fill the vacancy, and on his death in 1860 the position was conferred on James Sayre, who served 17 years, dying in 1877. A. J. Williams followed, and died in 1888, when Robert S. Williams, who had received training and experience as cashier, was called to the presidency, and filled the position until he died, in 1899. W. S. Walcott and L. H. Lawrence held the office for a couple of years each. George L. Bradford was promoted from the cashiership January 10, 1905, and still (1911) serves as president. Entering the national system in 1865, the name was changed to the Oneida National Bank. George A. Niles is the present cashier.

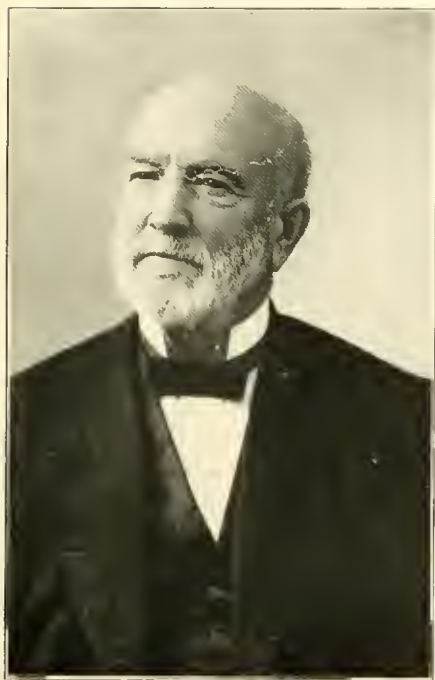
John C. Devereux and his brother Nicholas had received deposits of savings from their neighbors, but desired to give more than personal duration to the business, and enlisted some of the strongest capitalists to join them in founding the Utica Savings Bank, which was chartered July 26, 1839. John C. Devereux was chosen president and served for ten years. On his decease in 1849 Thomas Walker was chosen, and in 1863 Hiram Denio succeeded, and was



EDWARD HUNTINGTON  
Capitalist



SAMUEL WARDWELL  
Banker



BLOOMFIELD J. BEACH  
Lawyer and banker



ALFRED ETHRIDGE  
Merchant

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followed by Edmund A. Wetmore, William J. Bacon, Ephraim Chamberlain, William Blaikie, and in 1910 by Charles A. Miller, the incumbent. The first secretary and treasurer was Stulliam Williams, who was for some time also teller and bookkeeper. In 1840 the amount due depositors was \$27,607, and the net proceeds were \$65.82, which were paid to the treasurer for his services. The institution had the benefit of the care and experience of Mr. Williams for thirty-four years. As his health failed and after his death in 1873, the assistant performed the tasks of treasurer, Thomas Buchanan from 1860 to 1866, and John E. Spofford from that date to 1879. Addison C. Miller was elected treasurer in 1878, serving up to the time of his death. Then Rufus P. Birdseye, who had been assistant since 1879, was in 1894 promoted to be treasurer, and is now serving his seventeenth year.

The Utica Savings Bank has suffered three runs by its depositors. The first begun in December, 1872, and 827 accounts were closed and \$468,405 withdrawn, but the vaults held nearly \$500,000 in cash when quiet was restored. The result was to restrict accounts to those of strictly savings character. Again in May, 1886, signs of a run appeared, but it continued only a week and the withdrawals were about \$21,000. But at the close of July, 1893, more uneasiness was displayed, and on successive days sums of \$30,000 and \$26,000 were drawn out. The trustees deemed it wise to enforce the rule to require notice of sixty days for withdrawal of cash. The deposits fell nearly \$400,000. But the institution has grown and broadened its resources and stands in the forefront of its class. By its report January, 1911, it shows 34,425 open accounts averaging \$440.20, while its assets are \$16,382,620, of which the surplus is \$1,187,269.

The Bank of Central New York was organized in 1838 with a capital of \$100,000 and Anson Thomas served as president until his death in 1856, and Spencer Kellogg was chosen in his stead. A savings department was maintained. The institution went into the hands of Joseph Benedict as receiver in 1859.

Waterville founded its own bank in 1838 with a capital of \$130,000; Julius Candee was president. It accepted the national system in 1865. Daniel B. Goodwin served as president until 1888, when William B. Goodwin and next Samuel J. Goodwin followed him. George I. Hovey is now president and W. J. Butler cashier.

In 1839, John J. Knox established the Bank of Vernon, of which he became president, and the capital was \$81,700. He was succeeded by Josiah Case in 1862. There followed Warren G. Strong, A. Pierson Case, W. G. Strong again until 1908, when Fletcher A. Gary was chosen to the position. D. B. Case is now the cashier.

The Bank of Camden started in 1847 with \$100,000 capital under the presidency of H. J. Miner, who was succeeded by Lyman Curtiss, and gave way to private banks. The First National Bank of Camden with \$50,000 capital began business in January, 1880, and Daniel G. Dorrance was president until he died in 1896. With him was associated John G. Dorrance as cashier, who was promoted to the presidency and still serves in that office. D. J. Dorrance is the present cashier.



In 1847 in Rome the Fort Stanwix Bank was organized under state laws and changed to the national system in 1865. The capital was \$110,000, and David Utley was president. Under the cashiership of George Barnard it failed by his acts, and its affairs went to the courts in 1896.

In 1846 the Bank of Kirkland was opened in Clinton by O. Gridley as president with \$50,000 capital, and he was succeeded by A. G. Gridley. The institution for some years had a successful career.

The Utica City Bank began business September 1, 1848; with a capital of \$125,000 and as president Hiram Denio. The capital was made \$200,000 in 1849, and \$400,000 in 1888. It became a national bank in 1865. The presidents following Judge Denio have been Jared E. Warner, Isaac Maynard and the present incumbent, Charles S. Symonds, who had earned the position by faithful service as cashier. Success led to the increase of capital by steps up to \$1,000,000. The misconduct of a trusted clerk exposed in 1910 involved a considerable defalcation, but did not shake the strength of the institution. Putting itself under federal laws in 1865, it took the name of the Utica City National Bank. The present cashier is Melville C. Brown.

About the middle of the century a fever for the organization of fire insurance companies fell upon the county. In 1849 the Utica Insurance was established with \$150,000 capital and Henry R. Hart president; the Aetna with \$125,000 capital, John E. Hinman president, and the Farmers, capital \$100,000, John D. Leland president. In 1851 followed the Globe with \$150,000 capital, C. B. Coventry president. The life of all these corporations was brief, and the loss to the stockholders, many of them active professional and business men, caused serious inconvenience. The American Union Health Association, capital \$50,000 and Edward Eames president, survived not long from its birth in 1851.

The Central City Savings Institution was established in 1851 in connection with the Ontario Branch bank, and managed by its cashier, James S. Lynch, until such relation between savings and commercial banks was prohibited. Then the institution failed and was closed in 1873.

The Rome Savings Bank has met a public need with success since it was founded in 1851 with Hervey Brayton as president and B. J. Beach secretary. Successive presidents were Edward Huntington, Gordon N. Bissell, Henry D. Speneer, W. R. Huntington, while Samuel H. Beach is the present incumbent. Up to 1896 the books of this savings bank were kept with the Fort Stanwix National Bank, but since the failure of the latter the savings institution has been distinct and separate. After the decease of B. J. Beach in 1894, Charles F. Barnard served as secretary and treasurer until he died in 1905, and James T. Stone followed; in 1910 Mr. Stone was designated as treasurer, while Fred M. Shelley was made secretary. According to its report this bank had January 1, 1911, assets of \$3,272,171, of which \$304,241 was surplus above liabilities, showing great strength. The Rome Savings Bank is now the oldest bank in that city.

In 1851 the Rome Exchange Bank was founded with R. B. Doxtater president and F. H. Thomas cashier. It passed from the state to the national system in 1865 under the style of the First National Bank of Rome, with \$100,000

capital. J. G. Bissell served as president for many years after 1889. The present officers are Thomas H. Stryker, president, and F. M. Shelley, cashier.

Under state laws the Oneida County Bank with a capital of \$125,000 in 1853 began the career which lasted for half a century. The presidents were Ira B. Carey for two years, Charles H. Doolittle who died in 1874, Francis Kernan until 1887, J. M. Butler until his death in 1899, and Charles A. Butler until the institution was taken over in 1900 by the older and stronger First National bank. Frank A. Bosworth acted as cashier from 1887.

In 1854 the Oneida Central Bank began business in Rome as a state institution, became the Central National Bank in 1865, but failed in 1894. Its business was closed by Jim Stevens as receiver.

The Second National Bank of Utica was incorporated December 10, 1863, opening for business the next February with a capital of \$300,000. The first president was William J. Bacon, who gave place in a few months to Theodore S. Faxton. When the latter died in 1881 Edward S. Brayton was elected to the office. On his death in 1887, William M. White became president, serving until he died in 1896. Since then Thomas R. Proctor has been the head of the institution. George R. Thomas was the first cashier and filled the position for twenty-four years, dying in 1887. Frank R. Winant is the present cashier.

The National Savings Bank of Utica was established in 1865 and was managed by Thomas Buchanan treasurer. In 1868 it was merged with the People's Safe Deposit and Savings Institution, and later Levi Blakeslee was executive officer. In 1872 receivers took charge of its affairs.

Rome added to its financial institutions the Oneida County Savings Bank, May 1, 1869. Samuel B. Stevens was president until 1884, and has been succeeded by Alfred Ethridge, John D. Ely, Harrison Hannahs, Lebbeus E. Elmer, Owen E. Owens, John R. Edwards and Charles W. Lee. The treasurers have been G. Harrison Lynch, Charles S. Griffin, Cyrus D. Prescott, John R. Edwards, Albert W. Tremain and A. Edward Wetherbee. The bank had January 1, 1911, 7,457 open accounts, with assets of \$2,873,912, and a surplus of \$124,960.

In 1875 the title of the Bank of Rome was revived in a new state institution with \$100,000 capital and W. J. P. Kingsley president. January 14, 1879, it passed into the national system as the Farmers National Bank. Mr. Kingsley has been the only president, while Samuel Wardwell, the original cashier, was succeeded in 1904 by G. G. Clarabut, who now fills the position. In October, 1911, the capital was increased to \$250,000, its surplus now being \$100,000.

The needs of Boonville for banking facilities were served first two generations ago by the Valley Bank of Ela N. Merriam. The Bank of Boonville followed in 1866, and its stockholders organized the First National Bank of Boonville, January 4, 1876, with \$75,000 capital. The presidents have been Joseph R. Tharratt, Eugene C. Dodge, and the incumbent, B. C. Tharratt. Clark Dodge was cashier in 1876, succeeded by E. C. Dodge, and since 1896 by James P. Pitcher. From 1872 to 1906, S. C. Thompson & Company conducted a banking business in the village.

Utica was selected as the headquarters of the Commercial Travelers' Asso-

ciation incorporated March 19, 1883. Henry D. Pixley has been president from the outset; Edward Trevett was the first secretary and treasurer; since his death in 1903, George S. Dana has filled that position. The association has gained a leading position in its class. Its members, January 1, 1911, were 66,388. It has a surplus of \$618,456, and a cash reserve of \$32,203. Its income from members in 1910 was \$584,591, while the claims paid amounted to \$426,960.

Edward Curran was the first president of the Homestead Aid Association of Utica, founded February, 1884. When he died after a service of ten years George D. Dimon became his successor. Since January, 1896, the presidency has been filled by Watson T. Dunmore. The secretary is Sherwood S. Curran and the treasurer Charles B. Rogers. Its receipts for 1910 were \$1,213,277, with \$44,885 cash on hand at the close of its fiscal year, and total assets amounting to \$2,598,315. The members number 5,290, and the reserve fund is \$54,716.

Springing out of the private banking house of A. D. Mather & Co., in business in Utica since 1886, a state bank was established in Utica in 1890, with a capital of \$200,000. The officers were Joshua Mather, president, and on his death Charles W. Mather, with Edward Bushinger cashier. On the death of C. W. Mather in 1899 Mr. Bushinger was made executive officer. January 15, 1900, Jacob Agne was chosen president. August 3, 1903, the bank was transformed into the Citizens Trust Company with the same officers. When Mr. Bushinger died in 1906, F. H. Doolittle was chosen secretary, and July 11, 1906, William I. Taber succeeded Mr. Agne in the presidency, which he still fills. The capital was increased to \$300,000 in 1910 to meet the exigencies of increasing business.

For the southeastern part of Utica the Corn Hill Building and Loan Association was organized in February, 1891, with about a hundred members. Homer C. Townsend was president, William Howarth secretary, and Edward Bushinger treasurer. On the decease of Mr. Townsend George W. Booth was chosen to the presidency, but resigned in May, 1902. J. Lewis Jones succeeded to the position and is still serving. In 1910, Mr. Howarth died, and Owen F. Luker became secretary, as on the death of the first treasurer in 1906 Charles W. Bushinger became his successor. The present members are 680, who hold 9,428 shares. The dividends have been six to seven per cent. The loans are \$300,340. The assets are the same, and the reserve fund \$6,702.

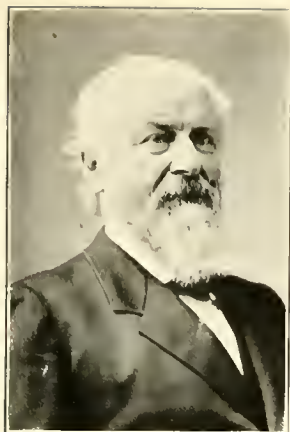
The Utica Trust and Deposit company has had one president, James S. Sherman, and one secretary and treasurer, J. Francis Day, (now also a vice president) since it was incorporated August 19, 1899. Its capital at the start was \$300,000, but was increased in 1910 to \$400,000. The company has grown to be among the strongest institutions of its class.

Holland Patent had a state bank organized in 1895, which April 14, 1900, was converted into the First National Bank with \$30,000 capital, George G. Chassell president and H. W. Dunlap cashier. This organization was that of the original Bank of Holland Patent and it remains unchanged.

The First National Bank of Remsen dates from November 5, 1902. Its capital is \$25,000, and its president George E. Pritchard, with H. W. Dunlap cashier.

The National Exchange Bank of Boonville was organized January 1, 1906,

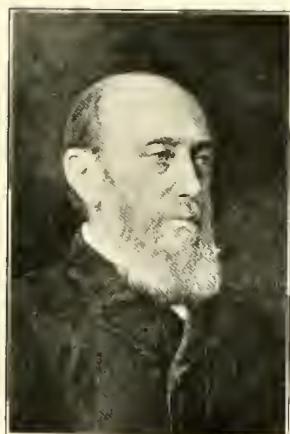




J. MILTON BUTLER  
Banker



STATHAM WILLIAMS  
Banker



P. V. ROGERS  
Banker



HENRY HUNTINGTON  
Banker



MONTGOMERY HUNT  
Banker



ROBERT S. WILLIAMS  
Banker





with \$25,000 capital. Eugene N. Hayes is president and Herbert R. Tubbs cashier.

The Utica Fire Insurance Company, a mutual organization, has been in business since 1903, has paid \$22,875 in losses, and has \$12,693 assets. The first president was William Howarth, secretary, A. A. Linck, and Jacob Agne treasurer. Their successors are George J. Whiffen president, H. A. Ackroyd secretary and Frederick W. Owens treasurer.

The opinion that Rome can afford more than two commercial banks, with its growing population, led in March, 1911, to the formation of the Rome Trust Company, with Albert W. Tremain as treasurer. The capital is made \$100,000 with \$50,000 surplus. The banking department refused to authorize this company to transact business.

In both cities and the larger villages private bankers have offered facilities to depositors and borrowers. Some of them have been long in business with considerable capital, and have served their customers acceptably. They are not, however, incorporated institutions.

Commercial banks and trust companies reported according to their respective charters to the State department February 28, 1911, and to the comptroller of the currency March 7, 1911, showing these results:

	Capital	Surplus	Resources
First National Utica.....	\$1,000,000	\$1,406,084	\$7,086,681
Oneida National Utica.....	600,000	761,764	3,461,734
First National Waterville .....	150,000	79,447	554,903
First National Vernon .....	100,000	44,458	396,745
Utica City National .....	1,000,000	234,973	3,636,267
Farmers National Rome .....	100,000	156,412	1,226,397
First National Rome .....	100,000	127,665	1,108,198
Second National Utica .....	300,000	342,833	2,192,398
First National Camden .....	50,000	57,884	444,432
First National Boonville .....	75,000	16,304	861,773
Utica Trust & Deposit.....	400,000	515,734	8,079,742
Citizens Trust Utica .....	300,000	263,556	4,108,375
Exchange National Boonville.....	25,000	22,028	390,926
First National Holland Patent ...	30,000	20,346	319,241
First National Remsen .....	25,000	9,715	275,770

## CHAPTER XXIII

### PRESS AND PUBLICATIONS

Five years before Oneida county was cut off from Herkimer county and organized, the first newspaper published west of Albany was issued in New Hartford. Its name was the *Whitestown Gazette*, and its proprietors were leading citizens, Jedediah Sanger, Samuel Wells and Elijah Risley, with Richard Vosburg printer. The first number bore date July 11, 1793, but it lapsed the next winter, and was resumed in May, 1796, by Samuel Wells, with William McLean as printer, who soon after became proprietor, and removed the office to Utica in July, 1798, and added to its title, making the name *Gazette and Cato's Patrol*.

January, 1794, a second paper was started by James Swordg of New York—the *Western Sentinel*—printed by E. P. Eton in Whitesboro; it survived about six years and was discontinued. A copy of the initial edition of the *Gazette* hangs framed in the museum of the Oneida Historical Society, and in its archives are scattered numbers of the succeeding papers. The beginning can thus be traced of the stream of issues from the press, which have developed such enterprise and influence.

From 1804 to 1816, John H. Lathrop, a graduate of Yale, was editor and proprietor of the *Gazette*, with Merrell and Seward, printers, and he changed the name to the *Utica Patriot*. January 1, 1815, Asabel Seward, William H. Maynard and William Williams started the *Patrol*, which the next year was united with the earlier paper, and the *Patriot and Patrol* was published by them for a year as a semi-weekly, then as a weekly. In 1821, by reason of political changes, this paper gave way to the *Utica Sentinel*, with William Williams as editor and proprietor.

Meanwhile August 17, 1799, Thomas Walker and Ebenezer Eton began in Rome the publication of the *Columbian Patriotic Gazette* and March 21, 1803, the paper was removed to Utica. The next change was the sale of the *Sentinel* to Samuel D. Dakin and William J. Bacon, who merged it May 6, 1825, with Mr. Walker's weekly under the style of the *Utica Sentinel and Gazette*. After three years Mr. Bacon retired, and in 1829, Mr. Dakin sold to Northway & Porter, the printers, but remained as editor until 1831.

Next followed a series of newspapers, living for brief periods to be merged into a common center. In 1830 the *American Citizen*, of which George S. Wilson was the head in its brief career, led the way to the *Sentinel and Gazette*. William Tracy in 1832 made like transfer of the *Intelligencer*, six years old. The *Elucidator* followed these examples in 1834; it was begun in 1829 by Beriah B. Hotchkiss for the Anti-Masons, passed in 1830 to William Williams,

and then with the others to Rufus Northway. All these represented the several elements of the Whig party, and naturally the consolidation was christened *Oneida Whig*, May 20, 1834. For a few months in 1831 the *Co-operator* by Quastus Graves preached co-operation.

The Democrats were not without an organ after January 27, 1817, when the first number of the *Utica Observer* appeared as a weekly. In a couple of years as the *Oneida Observer* it was printed in Rome, but after a few months came back to its first home and title. Eliasaph Dorchester was editor and proprietor, and was rewarded for his services by appointment as county clerk. He showed skill as an editor, and as a school teacher has a place in the local annals. Augustine G. Dauby, in 1823, a printer in the office, became publisher and editor, under the auspices of the partisan leaders, and he won high credit as a writer. About September 18, 1834, a daily issue was put out from the *Observer* office, for campaign purposes. Eli Maynard became his partner in 1826, and after a time became proprietor of the paper, while Mr. Dauby was made postmaster by President Jackson and served from May, 1829, until May, 1849. After Mr. Maynard followed John P. Bush and John F. Kittle, and then Arthur M. Beardsley became the editor, whose memory is among the leading writers.

Copies in the public library prove that in the second year after its first charter the infant city had three rival daily papers. The first number of the *Daily Observer* was followed by the *Oneida Whig*, a sprout of the weekly of the same name, which came from the press September 25. It was called out in the keen canvass for governor between William H. Seward and William L. Marey, and was like the *Observer*, a sheet of 18½ by 24 inches, with four pages divided into four columns each. On September 30 of the same year Robert B. Shepard brought out the *Morning Post*, half the size of the other dailies, and offered it for \$3 a year or a cent a copy, while the *Whig and Observer* sold for \$5 a year each, or two cents a copy. The *Post* devoted itself to literature and news, leaving politics to the *Whig*. An early death was the fate of all these ambitious aspirants for daily existence.

In 1833 the *Oneida Standard* was begun in Waterville and changed its office to Utica, where its style was the *Standard and Democrat*. In 1835 it aroused anger by taking part with the abolitionists and favoring the anti-slavery state convention held here, so that its office at Liberty and Seneca streets was mobbed. John G. Floyd, noted as representative in Congress, brought out the *Utica Democrat* in 1836, which passed through the hands of several publishers to DeWitt C. Grove, who, in 1852, merged it into the *Observer*, and in 1853 John B. Miller took the editorial chair. Mr. Grove was head of the concern until 1883, taking in as a partner in 1867 E. Prentiss Bailey, as the firm of Grove & Bailey, and later the corporation of E. P. Bailey & Company took control, and Thomas F. Clarke became part owner. Mr. Bailey succeeded Mr. Grove as editor with a series of assistants and reporters, of whom in 1911, W. W. Canfield is chief, with Lansing and Prentiss Bailey, sons of the senior.

After the experiments of Thomas Walker and E. Dorchester, Rome waited for a newspaper until 1825, when Lorin Dewey set up the *Rome Republican*, to which a rival *Republican* and a *Telegraph* were added after a while, and in 1838 the title *Democratic Sentinel* was adopted by R. Walby, with Calvert Con-



stock as editor. In 1845, after changes of managers, the style was simplified to *Rome Sentinel*. Calvert Comstock and Elon Comstock became interested with A. J. Rowley in 1847, but three years later Mr. Rowley became sole proprietor. The first number of the *Daily Sentinel* was issued July 15, 1852, by Calvert and Elon Comstock. In 1854 Daniel E. Wager and D. C. Rowley bought half of the establishment. From 1861 to 1863 Wood & Larwill were the publishers, who were succeeded by Warren & Beers. From June, 1864, the present owners, Franklin B. Beers and Augustus C. Kessinger, date their long and successful career. In 1893 they formed a corporation with Mr. Kessinger as president, Mr. Beers as secretary and treasurer, and Albert R. Kessinger as vice president, who for fifteen years has been managing editor.

Vernon in 1835 started a paper, the *Vernon Courier*, which in 1840 was removed to Rome, and from it arose the *Roman Citizen* as a Whig paper, then *Republican*, with C. B. Gay as editor and H. N. Bill as proprietor. Of seven who in course shared in control before Alfred Sandford became owner in October, 1854, J. P. Fitch, A. D. Griswold and G. H. Lynch may be mentioned. From 1866 to February, 1884, E. E. Carr was associated with Mr. Sandford, who then gave way to Ernest F. Byam, and in 1887 Clark Briggs took the place of Mr. Carr, when the firm became Byam & Briggs until January 1, 1896, and then Mr. Byam retired and Mr. Briggs became sole proprietor. In July, 1899, he sold out to A. C. Ross, but in February, 1903, Mr. Briggs was compelled to take the paper back. Finding that it was no longer profitable he discontinued the publication in April of that year.

Rome was presented with a third weekly in 1881 by J. J. Guernsey under the title of *Rome Republican*. This was issued tri-weekly in 1895 and since. Mr. Guernsey has become (1911) the dean of publishers in his city.

Besides the regular weeklies, keen contests at elections gave birth to documents of various sorts and to campaign papers. The most notable marked the year 1840, when Richard U. Sherman and William Allen in the *Democratic Rasp* printed by R. W. Roberts advocated the claims of Harrison and Tyler, while the *Sledge Hammer* struck its blows in behalf of Martin VanBuren. The latter was issued from the *Observer* office, and Luther R. Marsh and Jarvis M. Hatch were supposed to be the writers, although no editors were announced. These papers were types of the full developments of the partisan controversy of the period spiced with personalities.

Religious publications from an early day had their full share of the field. The *Christian Monitor* and *Sunday Morning Repast*, issued in Waterville in 1814, head the list, merged in the *Civil and Religious Intelligencer* by Joseph Tenny, and moved to Utica in 1833. The *Christian Magazine* was conducted by Congregational and Presbyterian ministers in 1814 and 1815. In 1822 the *Christian Repository* came from the press of William Williams under like influences. Then was the *Western Recorder*, which began its career with Thomas Hastings as editor. After nine years in that post he was called to New York, where he won note as a leader and author in church music.

Revs. E. F. Wiley and Elon Galusha in 1824 set on foot the *Baptist Register*, of which Alexander M. Beebe took editorial charge in 1825 and served until his death. Dolphus Bennett and Bennett, Backus & Hawley were publishers

for quite a period, and Edward Bright acquired an interest, who in 1855 transferred the publication to New York City. In 1826 and the next two years the *Western Sunday School Visitant* appeared. The Universalists in 1827 were represented by the *Evangelical Magazine*, conducted by Rev. Dolphus Skinner, and later by Rev. A. B. Grogh; the *Gospel Advocate*, brought hither from Buffalo, was joined to it in 1830. The *Gospel Messenger*, official organ of the Episcopalians, which was started in Auburn in 1827, and removed to Utica in 1839 under Rev. John C. Rudd. On his death Rev. W. A. Matson conducted its columns from 1848 to 1860, and he was succeeded by Rev. W. T. Gibson until 1872, when the publication was transferred to Syracuse by Bishop Huntington. Dr. Gibson in 1873 brought out the *Church Eclectic*, a monthly.

Besides periodicals the earliest issues from the local press noted are a fourth of July oration by Thomas Moore, published at Whitestown in 1797 by Lewis & Webb, and next in June, 1803, by Thomas Walker at Utica, a *Indication of the Administration of President Jefferson* written by Gideon Granger under the pen name of Algernon Sidney, and a treatise on *Infant Baptism* also appeared in that year. The same year Merrell & Seward began a series of almanacs, and added a spelling book and selections for reading by Noah Webster, with three or four religious works, and the *Gamut*, a book of music. Seward & Williams published *The Farmer's Calendar* for 1808 and following years, and issued also several sermons, *Divine Songs* by Isaac Watts, an edition of Livy, Murray's *English Reader*, a collection of church music entitled *Musica Sacra*, Thayer's *Geography*, the *New England Primer* and *A Wanderer in Switzerland*, and the list might be prolonged.

William Williams became the sole imprint first on the *Utica Directory* of 1817. As a boy of 12 years he worked on the first newspaper in the county under his brother-in-law McLean. He was connected as editor or publisher with three of the branches grafted into that tree, and as partner he had been active in setting forward an active book publishing business. He engraved illustrations first in this part of the country which appeared in 1810 in the *New England Primer*. Circulating notes issued by the village of Utica in 1815 were adorned by his cuts.

He was chief of the pioneers of the press not only in Oneida county but in all this region, and by far the most prolific publisher outside the largest cities, and deserves comparison with the foremost of them anywhere. Measured by the scantiness of the neighboring population and the meager means of distribution the products of his press were marvelous in number, variety and importance. Between 1817 and 1821 they counted no less than 51 books and pamphlets, and included the Greek Testament, Morse's *Geography* and a spelling book in the Iroquois language. From the latter date to 1838, when he retired from business, he issued as many as 130 publications. Among them were a quarto Bible, a Welsh hymn book, four tracts in Chotaw, a Hawaiian grammar, and the Douay version of the New Testament, printed at the instance of Nicholas Devereux, a prominent Catholic of Utica. *Light on Masonry*, an octavo of 582 pages, was a cause as well as an effect of the anti-masonic excitement of 1829. An edition of the *Edinburgh Encyclopedia*, begun in 1814 in connection with a Philadelphia house and running on for twenty years, brought heavy loss, and was a large factor in the reverses which clouded his closing years.

Other publishers were busy in this period. Ira Merrell put out a volume of sermons by Benjamin Bell in 1813. The name of Asabel Seward is imprinted as early as 1811 and in following years. An *Astronomy* by M. R. Bartlett was issued by Colwell & Wilson in 1825. Hastings & Merrell and Gardner Tracy published books. O. Hutchinson in 1840 and following years, in the interest of the Universalists, published several volumes, among them *A Voice to Youth* in 1841. Dolphus Bennett and Bennett & Hawley in the same year published an *Arithmetic* by Professor George R. Perkins and an *Algebra* by the same author followed in 1845. R. W. Roberts in 1848 brought out an English *Grammar* by Solomon Barrett and *Sermons* by Seth Williston.

The *Oneida Whig* had for editor for some years Theodore S. Gold, and February 4, 1842, a daily was issued from its office, the *Utica Daily Gazette*, edited at first by Richard U. Sherman, then for two months by Ezekiel Bacon.

Alexander Seward became a partner with Mr. Northway May 1, 1843, assuming the editorial chair; with him Dr. H. C. Potter became associated in 1847, and later was sole editor, after Mr. Seward was called to conduct the *Albany Register*. The establishment was sold October 12, 1853, to Lyon & Arthur, who made both daily and weekly democratic organs of the compromise school under the editorship of Joseph M. Lyon. In July, 1856, N. D. Jewell became proprietor with C. J. Radford as editor, and the political leanings were diverted to the Native American party. On January 29, 1867, the subscription list was bought by Ellis H. Roberts, and the *Daily* and *Weekly Gazette* were absorbed by the *Utica Herald*.

The *Oneida Morning Herald* was projected to maintain the growing anti-slavery sentiment, and appeared November 1, 1847, under Roberts & Sherman, with whom Edwin R. Colston was a partner for a few months. Robert W. Roberts was trained as a printer in the office of William Williams, and succeeded that veteran in job printing. Richard U. Sherman had edited the *Gazette* and was active in politics. In 1850 he was elected clerk of the New York Assembly, and his vacant chair on the paper fell to Ellis H. Roberts, who, when Mr. Sherman withdrew the next year, became proprietor, and soon localized the name to *Utica Herald*. With an interval of two or three months owing to factional strife in 1854, Mr. Roberts was head of the concern, and the paper led in advocacy of the Republican party; in April, 1889, he was appointed by President McKinley Assistant Treasurer of the United States in New York. He gathered a strong staff about him, and the paper gave voice to the intense popular loyalty in the period of the war for the Union. In 1872 he formed a corporation and admitted as stockholders with himself George L. Roberts and S. N. D. North, under the style of Ellis H. Roberts & Co. In October, 1890, the *Utica Herald Publishing Company* acquired possession with Joseph R. Swan as president, F. H. Winke business manager, John H. Cunningham editor, and William E. Weed and W. H. DeShon among his assistants. The company next chose Titus Sheard as president, and a receiver took control in a few months.

The *Utica Morning News* preceded the *Gazette* as a daily, but was published for only about three months in 1842 by Lyon & Arthur with C. Edward Lester as editorial writer.



The *Morning Herald* from 1847 forward appealed to the constituency of the early day in all of Central New York. The *Observer* began its daily issue April 27, 1848, as an afternoon paper.

In 1849 Thomas L. James, afterwards postmaster general, promoted the *Central City Cadet* by Lewis & James, as a temperance advocate.

The *Evening Telegraph* was conducted from May 1, 1851, to 1863, by T. R. McQuade & Co., with James Melver as the first editor. F. A. Crandall and D. F. Ritchie were successive managers until the publication ceased in 1875.

The first number of the *Cenhadur Americana*, iidd., an octavo monthly, was issued January, 1840, from the office of Robert W. Roberts, by Rev. Robert Everett, a Congregational minister. Mr. Everett was the best educated of the Welsh preachers who up to that time had migrated to this region, and wielded a wider influence with his pen than in the pulpit. He had already in 1839 published a collection of Welsh hymns for church use printed by Mr. Roberts. After two or three years Dr. Everett transferred his magazine to Steuben, where he resided, and published there editions of his hymn book and other religious works. He kept his press busy there until his death in 1875, and it was continued by his son Lewis and his daughter Miss Mary for six years. The *Cenhadur* was bought in 1881 by Rev. Edward Davis, who after awhile took it to Waterville. On account of his failing health Hugh Hughes became practically the manager, and the magazine was discontinued in 1902.

The *Cyfaill*, another Welsh monthly, was begun under the auspices of the Calvinistic Methodists in Utica in 1857. Rev. William Rowlands was the editor for many years, succeeded by Rev. William Roberts, and later for a long period by T. Solomon Griffiths. In 1811, the editorial mantle passed to Rev. Joseph Roberts of New York.

The Welsh Baptists for two decades gave support from January, 1876, to *Y Wawr*, also a monthly, conducted by Rev. Owen Griffiths, and discontinued August, 1896.

The physicians of the Utica State Hospital started in 1844 the *American Journal of Insanity*, an octavo quarterly, in which contributions by Dr. Amaziah Brigham, Dr. John P. Gray and other alienist experts have for two generations commanded the attention of the profession. The *Opal* was also issued from the same institution for the patients from 1852 to 1857.

*Y Drych*, Welsh weekly, is the consolidation of four papers from several quarters. Started under that name in New York in 1851 by J. M. Jones, from 1854 it was conducted by J. W. Jones, and was brought to Utica in 1860, where it was soon bought by J. Mather Jones. In 1860 John C. Roberts was charged with the management, and in 1874 by purchase Thomas J. Griffiths assumed the responsibilities of proprietor.

In the meanwhile *Y Gwylieddydd*, edited by Lewis Jones for a company headed by William M. Owen and printed by R. W. Roberts ran its career at the middle of the century and gave up the field. Mr. Griffiths in 1877 brought hither the *Baner America* from Scranton; in 1890 *Y Wasg* from Pittsburg, and in 1894 the *Columbia* from Chicago.

The circulation of *Y Drych* extends to many states, and now (1911) continues with Thomas J. Griffiths as proprietor and John C. Roberts as editor. Mr.



Griffiths also publishes since 1886 the *Cambrian*, which was started in Cincinnati in 1880 in English, but appealing to the Welsh people.

October 22, 1877, to promote the partisan interests of Roseoe Conkling, Lewis Lawrence promoted the *Republican*, a daily paper, with Dennis T. Kelly as publisher. Of its editors John F. Mines was the best known. The last number appeared February 4, 1879.

In 1846 Clinton had its first paper, the *Signal*, of which the initial number was dated July 10. L. W. Payne was publisher. After two years the title was changed to the *Radiator*, and the publication stopped in 1852. The *Oneida Chief* soon took its place under L. W. Payne and Ira D. Brown. In 1856 Francis E. Merritt became proprietor, who the next year sold out to Glen H. Osborne, who named it *Chief and Courier*, and in 1859 M. D. Raymond became proprietor, and so continued until 1875, when J. B. Sykes bought the property, styled the paper *Clinton Courier*, and J. B. and H. B. Sykes have been publishers for a quarter of a century. In 1899 the *Clinton Advertiser* entered the field in charge of H. Platt Osborne, and it was merged with the *Courier* in March, 1911. J. B. Sykes has retired, and H. B. Sykes is now the publisher.

The genesis of Boonville's papers dates from March, 1852, when James H. Norton started the *Boonville Ledger* and soon sold it to E. Kent. L. C. Childs & Company bought the office in 1855, and rechristened the paper *Black River Herald*. In 1862 H. P. Willard assumed control as editor and publisher. On his death his sons took up the work, and since 1891 Garry A. Willard has conducted the paper, localized as the *Boonville Herald*, and advocating the Republican cause.

As a Democratic weekly in 1892 C. J. Donnelly brought out the *Boonville Record*, which in 1895 he transferred to H. H. Griffith and I. G. Sawyer, who continue the publication.

The record of papers in Camden is extensive for a village of its size. The *Camden Gazette* by E. C. Hatton appeared in 1842, who passed it over to E. M. Higbie, under whom it died. Ira D. Brown in 1852 kindled the *Northern Light*, and after half a year passed it on to Merritt & Stone. The *Camden Courier* by E. O'Farrell followed in 1853, which after a short life left the field to the *Camden Freeman* by Wesley Henderson, which suspended in 1863. The *Journal* under Jairus H. Munger from 1864 to 1878 was a notable publication. In 1885 W. C. Stone, who had founded the *Advance* in 1873, merged the *Journal* with its rival under the title of the *Advance Journal*, and it continues, a credit to the town and the publisher.

Besides the earliest publications which, as has been mentioned in this chapter, were transplanted to other soil, Waterville had the *Advertiser* in 1851, the *Journal* started in 1855 and stopped the next year, and in 1857 McKibbin & Wilkinson established the *Waterville Times*. J. H. Yale followed them in 1860, and R. S. Ballard in 1866. James J. Guernsey was proprietor from 1870 to 1881, and Frank J. Cutter, for a year as partner of W. L. Histed and then alone, conducted the paper until 1887. W. S. Hawkins in that year added the *Reflex*, which had been run three years by Loftus and Barnum, and has given the *Times* character and influence up to this day. He also issues a poultry paper.

After the *Vernon Courier* was transformed into the *Roman Citizen*, the next paper in the former village was the *Central New York Journal*, projected in 1851 by John R. Howlett, who gave it the name of the *Vernon Transcript* in 1855. Forty years later Rev. H. A. Howard brought out in December, 1895, a monthly called the *Search Light*, and a dozen numbers were printed. In May, 1896, Curry & Murphy started the *Vernon Times*, which appeared for some years.

Oriskany Falls has had a local weekly, the *News*, for forty-two years, since May, 1869. W. E. Phillips is editor and publisher.

Notable publications in Utica before 1850 were the *Friend of Man*, by William Goodell, radical abolitionist, and the *Liberty Press*, by Wesley Bailey, which gave way to the *Teetotaler*. For awhile about the same time the *Utilitarian* by Squires & Soliss attracted local notice.

In the same era O. B. Pierce issued the *Rome Vigilant*, and N. D. Jewell the *American Courier* in Utica. About 1855 appeared the *New York Farmer* in Rome by Wager & Rowley, and the *Northern Farmer* in Utica by T. B. Miner, and the *Rural American* in Clinton also by T. B. Miner, which in 1887 he took away to New Brunswick, N. J.

Hamilton College during all its history has allied itself closely to the printing press. The anniversary addresses and reports of notable occasions have been presented in pamphlets often of many pages and of especial value. Professor Henry Mandeville's book on Reading and Oratory, half a century ago when it came from the press of Rufus Northway, made a deep impression and has inspired all the classes to excellence in elocution.

The German speaking population in 1853 felt the need of a paper using their own language, and a stock company was organized to print the *Central New York Democrat*, with Dr. Soden as editor. Two years later Paul Keiser became proprietor, and rechristened it the *Oneida Democrat*. John C. Schreiber took editorial charge in 1860, and became proprietor in 1865, adding *Utica Deutsche Zeitung* to the title. In 1891 the control passed to a stock company with John C. Fulmer treasurer and Mr. Schreiber president, who remained editor until his death in 1910. He was followed in that capacity by Otto Poepel. The president of the company is Jacob Agne. After two decades of labor in that capacity Mr. Fulmer resigned as treasurer in March, 1911, and Richard Metzler was chosen his successor.

The *Utica Volksblatt* was conducted as a Republican German weekly by Henry Kruempel from 1887 for about ten years.

Bare mention can be made of issues about 1847, of the *Central Washingtonian News* by Baker & Sanford in Utica; the *Christian Contributor* by Rev. C. P. Grosvenor, and the *Gomerian Sun* by Evan E. Roberts. To this list may be added about 1857 the *Central Independent* by G. W. Bungay and Ansel K. Bailey, which Mr. Bungay removed to Ilion. The paper was later merged with the *Utica Weekly Herald*. In 1868 the *Temperance Patriot* was started by William M. Ireland; somewhat earlier was the *Model Worker* by Samuel W. Green. Later the Women's Christian Association produced the *Christian Worker*.

In 1870 Thomas F. Baker and Benjamin L. Douglas found the field of daily

newspapers in Utica tempting and added to it the *Utica Bee*, an afternoon issue. Their experience did not satisfy them, and they passed it over to Seth Wilbur Paine the next year and he dropped it. Another short lived daily was the *Utica Union*, of which the first number came out October 12, 1895, started by a company of printers and sold for one cent. Andrew Keiner was president and then C. N. Gaffney, with E. L. Mainwaring manager.

The *Sunday Tribune* owes its origin to Thomas F. Baker and Dennis T. Kelly, who founded it in May, 1877; they transferred it to H. E. Devendorf in 1883. He was followed by Patrick E. Kelly, who sold the establishment in December, 1895, to Jacob Agne and John C. Fulmer. They acted for the Utica *Sunday Tribune* company, which was incorporated January 31, 1896, and Jacob Agne was chosen president and John C. Fulmer secretary and treasurer, who both continue to serve as such. The *Sunday Journal* entered into competition in October, 1894, and was bought and absorbed by the *Tribune* company March 4, 1907.

The same corporation established the *Evening Dispatch* December 22, 1898, and bought the *Morning Herald* property March 6, 1890. The latter paper was printed until March 28, but from March 16 the morning and evening editions were styled *Utica Herald-Dispatch*. From the *Herald* a number of men were recruited, including William E. Weed managing editor, William H. DeShon leading assistant, and F. H. Wienke secretary. As an evening journal the consolidated paper has gained a wide circulation and notable prosperity, as the lineal descendant of the original newspaper in the county.

William T. and Thomas F. Baker founded the *Saturday Globe* May 11, 1881, and have conducted it with pictures as a marked feature, with conspicuous success. Thomas F. Baker has been from the first editor-in-chief with A. M. Dickinson as managing editor and a corps of assistants. The *Globe* made for itself a special field and for thirty years has filled it acceptably to its very large clientage.

The *Utica Daily Press* was issued March 13, 1882, by a combination of striking printers, who gave way the next year to a new corporation. F. A. Eastman was editor for about two years. In February, 1885, George E. Dunham was made president and Otto A. Meyer secretary and treasurer, with F. W. Bensberg at the head of the printing rooms. Mr. Bensberg retired after a service of two decades, and Mr. Meyer in February, 1911, when the officers were George E. Dunham, president and editor, and William V. Jones secretary, with Hugh Hughes as managing editor. The *Press* fills well its sphere as the only morning journal in the county.

Many trade journals go forth from our cities and villages. Several churches have regular bulletins printed, while school and business catalogs are numerous. The publications of the Oneida Historical society have permanent value. Since 1894, with several changes of managers, the *Advocate* in Utica has stood every week for organized labor.

The intelligence and aspirations of the Italian community has found expression in well conducted weeklies within the last decade, while the *Spiritual Hammer* since 1910 addresses our Polish residents. *La Luce* among the Italians survives competitors. The *Polish Eagle* has folded its wings.



In Remsen the *News*, as a weekly, records the events of that busy village.

From the press of the *Morning Herald* several books were published; a Welsh Concordance by Rev. T. T. Evans and Presbyterianism in Central New York by Rev. P. H. Fowler were among the earliest. Curtis & Childs had their imprint on a Genealogy of the Childs Family, Dr. Bagg's *Pioneers of Utica* and other books. Their successors, L. C. Childs & Son, also belong to the guild of publishers. Thomas J. Griffiths has published many volumes, while George W. Browning of Clinton deserves mention among local publishers. Perhaps other names in Rome and the villages belong in this record.

Lack of space alone prevents the recital of a score or more of papers of various classes which have strown the way in all the years, of which since 1887 a score or more have fallen from sight leaving hardly a sign.

The joy of opening the local mine was taken by Pomroy Jones, whose *Annals of Oneida County* issued in 1851, shows the rich ore. The *Pioneers of Utica* by Dr. M. M. Bagg published in 1877 and in an enlarged edition in 1892 is a careful, scholarly tribute of local pride. An illustrated quarto *History of Oneida County* edited by Samuel W. Durant bears the date of 1878. In 1896 Daniel E. Wager presented the result of long and painstaking research in *Our County and Its People*, a royal octavo with portraits.

The newspapers of the county have always represented the best thoughts and activities of the people and have enlisted some of the most able and best educated of its citizens. In every period the weeklies and the dailies have ranked with the most enterprising and influential in the country. In the printed word not only, but in public service the editors of Oneida county have proved their title to rank with the leaders of men. They have put worthy effort into their current work and the managers have used the shrewdest devices in production and distribution. In the early days they extended mail routes and employed their own postriders for daily delivery. They helped to organize the *Associated Press*. From the local staff managers and writers have been recruited for journals elsewhere. From the ease and the editorial rooms have been summoned chiefs in national departments, representatives in the legislature and in Congress, presidents of banks, administrative officers, mayors of cities, postmasters, members of commissions and professors in colleges. Authors of books are numbered among the publishers, and the productions of the press are not the least honorable or beneficial of the contributions of Oneida county to the state and the nation.

ELLIS H. ROBERTS was born in Utica, N. Y., September 30, 1827. His parents were natives of north Wales and came to the United States, the father in 1816, and the mother in 1817, and they located in Utica. The father died when the son was four years old. The lad was trained as a printer. After attending Whitestown seminary for three terms he entered Yale College as a sophomore, working at his trade during vacations. In college he took prizes for English composition, was elected by his classmates first editor of the *Yale Literary Magazine*, and was accorded the second highest honor of the class when he was graduated in 1850, after winning the Bristed scholarship. He was for



awhile principal of the Utica Free academy, and a teacher of Latin in the Utica Female seminary.

In 1851 he devoted himself to newspaper work, becoming editor of the *Utica Morning Herald*, and, except for a brief period in 1854, continued his relation to that paper as editor and chief proprietor until 1899. The paper during the Civil War period attracted much attention.

Mr. Roberts was elected as a Republican to the New York assembly from the Second Oneida district in 1866, and was assigned to the committee of ways and means, as well as to others.

In 1870 he was elected to the national house of representatives from the Oneida district, and re-elected in 1872, but was carried down by the Democratic tidal wave in 1874.

In Congress, Speaker Blaine accorded to him a distinction rare to a new member,—of a position on the ways and means committee. He gave much attention to financial measures, advocating the policy of the resumption of specie payment, the funding of the national debt by interest continually decreasing, the redemption of bonds, and the reduction of war taxes, emphasizing his advocacy of protection to American industries.

Among his addresses in the house of representatives were those on "Protection to the Citizen," "Assaults on the National Credit," "The Revenue and American Labor," "Colorado as a State," "The Treasury and the Taxes," and "The Revenue and the Sinking Fund."

During his service Mr. Roberts was a member of a sub-committee of ways and means which investigated certain matters in the treasury department, and led to the change of the secretary and an assistant secretary. He introduced the bill for the repeal of the moiety laws, and was chairman of a sub-committee of the ways and means to report it. The moiety system had prevailed since the foundation of the government, and gave large profits to many officials, and they and their friends naturally clung to the policy. The bill became a law June 22, 1874.

In 1864 and in 1868 Mr. Roberts was a delegate to the Republican national convention.

The degree of doctor of laws was conferred upon him by Hamilton College in 1869, and by Yale College in 1884.

President Harrison appointed Mr. Roberts assistant treasurer of the United States at New York on April 1, 1889. At their own request, twenty prominent citizens of Utica became his sureties, qualifying for \$800,000. He served in that position during the administration of President Harrison, and upon his retirement Secretary Carlisle wrote to him: "The department appreciates fully and commends the admirable manner in which the affairs of the office have been conducted during your incumbency."

In 1893, Mr. Roberts became president of the Franklin National bank of New York, and continued to serve in that capacity until he was appointed treasurer of the United States by President McKinley in 1897.

In 1868 and again in 1873 Mr. Roberts traveled extensively in Europe, and gave the results of his observations in a series of letters to his newspaper which were entitled, "To Greece and Beyond."

On the nomination of the trustees of Cornell University in February of 1844, Mr. Roberts delivered a series of ten lectures before the two upper classes in that university upon the protective policy and the logical grounds upon which it rests. A part of the same course, on the invitation of the authorities of Hamilton College, was repeated there.

The lectures delivered at Cornell University and Hamilton College were the basis of a volume published by Houghton, Mifflin & Company in 1884, entitled "Government Revenue, Especially the American System."

He delivered addresses at Union College on "The Tariff Justified by Political Economy," and at Syracuse University on "The Currency Problem." He has also addressed the Bankers' associations of Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana on various financial topics; also on the invitation of the American Bankers' association, he has delivered addresses before that body at its annual session in Richmond, San Francisco and New York.

In the American Commonwealth series Houghton, Mifflin & Company have published two volumes written by him, and entitled "The Planting and Growth of the Empire State." Included in addresses published by the state of New York on Centennial celebrations, are an address on the Battle of Oriskany, and on the Sullivan campaign in the interior and southern part of New York state.

He served as treasurer of the United State under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt until July 1, 1905, when he resigned. He has since devoted himself to study and literary work, has delivered addresses before the Oneida Historical society, the Herkimer County Historical society, the Utica Free academy, the Men's clubs of various churches, and before different associations and chapters, and his pen has been busy for magazines and journals and otherwise. His home is in his native town.

Mr. Roberts has served as president of the Fort Schuyler club, the Oneida Historical society at Utica, of the Patria club, the St. David's society, and the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni association, New York; as president of the Yale Alumni association of Washington, and of the Washington Economic society, and the Men's society of the Church of the Covenant. He is a member of the Cosmos club and the University club of Washington, the Archaeological society of that city, and of the National Geographical society. In January, 1905, he was appointed by the president a member of the commission for the annual examination of the mint.

He was married June 21, 1851, to Elizabeth Morris of Utica, New York, who died July 20, 1903.

The potential influence of Ellis H. Roberts, editor of the *Utica Herald*, a paper of large circulation in northern and central New York, proved of great assistance to Conkling. Roberts was of Welsh origin, a scholar in politics, strong with the pen, and conspicuously prominent in the discussion of economic issues. When in Congress (1871-75) he served upon the ways and means committee. In 1867 his friends sent him to the assembly especially to promote the election of Utica's favorite son, and in his sincere, earnest efforts he very nearly consolidated the Republican press of the state in Conkling's behalf. During the week's fierce contest at Albany he marshalled his forces with rare skill, not forgetting that vigilance brings victory.

After the elevation of Roseoe Conkling to the United States senate, Mr. Roberts became a candidate for the office of representative in Congress. The opposing candidate was Alexander H. Bailey of Rome. Mr. Conkling desired the election of Roberts, but as Bailey was also a friend of Conkling, the senator refused to use his power to elect Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Bailey was nominated and elected. This offended Mr. Roberts, but afterward the differences of the two were somewhat ameliorated, and Mr. Roberts succeeded Bailey in Congress. In 1874 the candidate against Mr. Roberts was Scott Lord, the partner of Mr. Conkling. At this time Conkling and Roberts were at swords points politically, because of jealousies and offenses which each charged against the other. Conkling and his friends supported Lord, and Mr. Roberts was defeated. The differences of these two prominent men was a great detriment to the state, and particularly to Oneida county, and it has always seemed to their friends that these differences should have been adjusted, that the public might have reaped the benefit of their valuable services.

RICHARD U. SHERMAN was born in Vernon, Oneida county, N. Y., in 1819. He was the son of Willit H. Sherman and Catherine Schoolcraft, who was a daughter of Lawrence Schoolcraft. He was educated at the common school, and graduated from the Utica Free academy in his fourteenth year. He was trained for a merchant, but he had a taste for politics, and soon became interested in the famous campaign between Harrison and Van Buren. He conducted a paper in Utica during that campaign, and was editor of the *Utica Gazette*. In 1844 he conducted the *Herkimer Journal*, and in 1846 was editor of the *Oswego Daily Times*. In 1847, in company with Erastus Clark, he established the *Daily Evening Gazette* at Rochester. This was the only daily paper in the state of New York that supported General Zachary Taylor for president. In the fall of the same year he returned to Utica, and in connection with Robert W. Roberts he established the *Utica Morning Herald*, and was editor of that paper. In 1851 he was elected clerk of the assembly, which position he held until 1857, except for one year, when his party was in a minority in the house. He was member of assembly in 1857. He was the author of the *Clerk's Manual*, which has ever since been an authority in the legislature at Albany. In 1856, when the assembly was about evenly divided between Republicans, Democrats and Americans, there were several weeks' contest over the speakership, and it fell to Mr. Sherman's lot to preside during that time, and in a bitter fight of this description his remarkable ability as a presiding officer was made evident to every one. He had presided so satisfactorily that he was elected clerk, although his party had less than one-third of the votes in the house. In 1860 he was made assistant clerk in the house of representatives, and for ten years held that position at Washington, but resigned in 1870 to take charge of large estates as executor, administrator or trustee. He had a political controversy with Senator Roseoe Conkling, and they became estranged. He was a great admirer and friend of Horace Greeley, editor of the *New York Tribune*, followed Greeley into the Liberal-Republican movement, was nominated for representative in Congress in 1872, but was defeated by Ellis H. Roberts, the Republican candidate. In 1874 he was elected to the assembly. He was candidate for speaker of the as-



RICHARD U. SHERMAN  
Editor



E. PRENTISS BAILEY  
Editor



ELLIS H. ROBERTS  
Editor



DEWITT C. GROVE  
Editor



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sembly, and would have been elected except for the fact that Francis Kernan was candidate for United States senator, and it was thought unwise to press him for speaker as against Mr. Kernan's chances for United States senator, and he, therefore, withdrew from the contest. He was re-elected to the assembly in 1875, and was the unanimous choice of his party, which was in the minority, for speaker. He served on important committees, and was the leader upon the Democratic side. He was appointed state fish commissioner to succeed Governor Horatio Seymour in 1879, and served until 1890. In this capacity he rendered the state great service in restocking the lakes of the Adirondack region with desirable fish, and protecting the forests from depredations by unscrupulous lumber dealers and others. He was president of the New Hartford Canning Company, Ltd., and director in several other important industries; was trustee and president of the board of directors of the Butler Memorial hall in the village of New Hartford, several times president of the village, a prominent mason, and a member of several clubs and social organizations. He represented the fourth ward of Utica in the board of supervisors for several years, and was chairman of that body in 1854.

While he filled the editorial chair of the *Utica Herald* his editorials ranked among those of the best writers in the entire country. As a sample of his editorial work we will quote from the first editorial he wrote, which appeared in the *Utica Morning Herald* November 1, 1847, while he was yet a very young man: "To the public: We shall be the engine of no clique—the organ of no faction. Our aim is to promote the unity of the Whig party, to maintain its integrity, to disseminate and extend its principles, and contribute to the extent of our humble means towards its success, and the perpetuation of its policy of government. \* \* \* Upon all questions which are foreign to the objects had in view in the establishment of this sheet, and which may threaten to distract and divide the Whig party and prevent its harmonious and vigorous action the *Herald* will, as in duty bound, avoid participation. To agitate and embitter the public mind with injudicious excitement and recrimination is not our purpose. We shall, therefore, endeavor to abstain from acts which are liable to produce such consequences. We believe that differences in sentiment, habits and employments, can be more easily harmonized or tolerated, where parties differing entertain mutual kindness, than where uncompromising hatred is the rule of action. With this exposition of our intentions, we submit ourselves to the favor of the public, from whom we have already shared liberally, and a pledge of our individual and associated effort in promoting the welfare of our fellow citizens."

Mr. Sherman died February 21, 1895, at New Hartford. January 13, 1845, he married Mary F. Sherman, a very distant relative, and they have had six children: Richard W., a civil engineer and twice mayor of the city of Utica; Statham W., who died in 1894; Mary Louise, wife of Henry J. Cookinham of Utica; James S., vice president of the United States; Sanford F., president of the New Hartford Canning Company; Willet H., who died at New Hartford in 1868, aged about six years.

DEWITT CLINTON GROVE was born in Utica, December 16, 1825. He was of English descent, and his father was a soldier in the war of the Revolution. On

his mother's side he was German. Mr. Grove received a limited education, and left school at the age of ten years. He was, however, a student, and became quite proficient in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. In recognition of his acquirements Madison University (now Colgate University) in 1861 conferred upon him the degree of master of arts. At the age of 13 he became a printer, and, except for a few months in 1844 when he studied law, he followed the business of a printer and publisher all his life. In February, 1846, he became one of the proprietors and editors of the *Utica Democrat*, the organ of the branch of the Democratic party known as the "Barnburners," or the radical faction of that party. He became quite prominent in politics before he was a voter. In 1852 Franklin Pierce was elected president, and the two wings of the Democratic party became harmonious in central New York. The two Democratic papers in Utica were consolidated in 1853, Mr. Grove becoming the chief proprietor of the *Daily Observer*, then the leading Democratic paper in central New York. In January, 1867, he formed a partnership with E. Prentiss Bailey, who had long been his associate on the paper. In 1873 the partnership was changed to a corporation, the members of the corporation being Mr. Grove, Mr. Bailey, and Theodore P. Cook. From 1857 to 1860 Mr. Grove was alderman; in 1860 was nominated and elected mayor, and was re-elected twice afterward. In the fall of 1860 he was the Democratic candidate for representative in Congress against Roscoe Conkling, but the district was republican and Mr. Conkling was elected. It is related of Mr. Grove that while he was mayor the Abolitionists appointed a convention to be held in Utica, and that a mob had threatened to break it up. Although Mr. Grove was a Democrat and opposed to the Abolitionists, yet he notified them that they would be protected in their meeting, and personally conducted the speakers to a place of safety to save them from a hostile demonstration. He took ground with the Union on the breaking out of the Civil War, and presided at the first large patriotic meeting in Utica, at which such great statesmen as Roscoe Conkling, Francis Kernan and Hiram Denio took a prominent part. About 1883 his health failed, and he retired from the active management of the newspaper, going to New York to be with his son and daughter. His health did not improve, and on March 17, 1884, he died in New York City. His funeral occurred in Utica, and he was buried in Forest Hill cemetery. Mr. Grove married Caroline L. Pratt and had two children, Edwin B. and Mrs. Frank M. Gregory, both of whom are dead, and there remains no one who bears the name at the present time.

ELIJAH PRENTISS BAILEY was born in the town of Manlius, near Fayetteville, Onondaga county, N. Y., August 15, 1834, the eldest son of the Rev. Wesley and Eunice (Kinne) Bailey. He inherited an inclination toward newspaper work, for his father, although a Methodist minister, devoted the greater part of his life to newspaper work. In 1842 the Rev. Mr. Bailey removed with his family to Utica, where, at the request and with the support of Alvan Stewart and other prominent Abolitionists, he founded an Abolition paper known as the *Liberty Press*.

E. Prentiss Bailey's early education was received in a private school and in Hyde's Academy in Fayetteville; and after the family removed to Utica he attended the Advanced School and Barret's Latin Grammar School. At the

age of 12 he left school and entered his father's office, there to learn the trade of printer. He remained in the office of the Liberty Press until 1853, when DeWitt C. Grove, then the publisher of the Utica Daily Observer, offered him an opportunity in that office. At that time John B. Miller was editor of the paper. Mr. Bailey was reporter, telegraph editor and all 'round journalist in this office until in 1857 Mr. Miller was appointed by President Buchanan, United States consul at Hamburg. Mr. Bailey then assumed the duties that Mr. Miller had relinquished; and, a singular comparison between the newspaper of that day and the publication of to-day is offered in the fact that for a term of years he was practically the only man doing any of the strictly journalistic work on The Observer.

In 1867 he purchased an interest in the paper, and the firm of Grove & Bailey was formed—a relationship that continued for thirty years, lacking three months. In that same year he became the managing editor of the paper; and since 1883 has been the editor-in-chief. In 1883 the corporate name of the firm was changed to E. P. Bailey & Co., as it still remains.

Since that day in 1846 when he entered his father's office to learn the printer's trade to the present time Mr. Bailey's interests and activities have been centered in the newspaper business; and he is to-day regarded as the dean of the profession. It is not probable that there is any other man in the country who has had so long a connection with one newspaper as Mr. Bailey has continued with The Observer. Under his guidance it has come to be a recognized power among the Independent Democratic papers not only of the state, but of the country, and to his personality this is chiefly due. On the 9th of October, 1903, the employes of The Observer signalized the arrival of Mr. Bailey's fiftieth anniversary in the office by the presentation of a loving cup, the presentation speech being made by Isaac Ryals, pressman, whose term of service in the office somewhat exceeded that of Mr. Bailey himself. It is a point not impertinent to the subject of this sketch, as a commentary on the manner in which he, as editor and chief owner, has conducted the constantly growing business of the concern, that there is probably to be found nowhere in the city an office or factory where there are to-day so large a proportion of employes who can point back to ten, twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years of service as may be found in The Observer office. To the credit of Mr. Bailey's management it can be said that he has not bowed to any demand for cheap, corrupt or questionable publications. His constant endeavor is to hold full high the standard of clean journalism, and to present to the public a newspaper worthy to be read around any fireside. As an editorial writer, in certain lines, Mr. Bailey has few equals in the country, and, perhaps, no superiors.

Mr. Bailey was twice elected school commissioner of Utica; and in 1887 President Cleveland, long his warm personal friend, appointed him postmaster of Utica. He served in this capacity four years, about half of the term being under President Harrison and Postmaster General Wanamaker. When Governor Roswell P. Flower reorganized the State Civil Service Commission he appointed Mr. Bailey a member. He was president of the board until his resignation, December 31, 1895. In March of 1896 he was again appointed postmaster by President Cleveland.



He was early identified with that great news-gathering organization, the Associated Press, and was the president of the New York Associated Press from 1887 to 1891; and for many years was a member of its executive committee. About the year 1860 he became a member of the Utica Mechanics' Association, and was for seven years its president. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity for about 45 years, is a charter member of Faxon Lodge F. & A. M., and is also a member of Yah-nun-dah-sis Lodge, A. & A. S. Rite. He was one of the incorporators and original managers of the Utica Homeopathic Hospital.

Mr. Bailey has been twice married. On September 28, 1857, he married Miss Julia S. Wetherby of DeWitt, Onondaga county, who died July 9, 1860, leaving one daughter, now Mrs. Edward Hyde Wells of Albany. He married, second, Miss Hannah Chapman of Utica, June 24, 1868, who died July 17, 1907. Of this marriage there were born four children—Lansing Chapman, August 12, 1869; Clinton Grove, July 24, 1871, (died July 21, 1872); Prentiss, October 19, 1873, and Bessie Carlton, December 20, 1875.











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